



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
No.2608



Parent Charges 2020

January 28th, 2020

Dear Parents,

This correspondence outlines the student charges arrangements for the 2020 school year that were approved by the AVPS School Council on November 21 2019. These arrangements reflect our [Parent Payment Policy](#) which was also reviewed and approved on the same date.

Payment Methods include:

- **Compass** – AVPS's preferred method:
 - Access **course confirmation** on your child / children's Compass homepage.
 - Select **payment charges** from the different categories (see descriptions below).
 - Please note, Essential Learning Items, Sports Levy & MVIMP are **fixed payments**.
 - Please note, Voluntary Contribution charges are **optional and can be changed** (reduced or increased) to suit the payee.
- **In person at the office**
 - Credit / debit card or cash payments are accepted.
 - AMEX, Diners Club and cheques are not accepted
- **By phone – (03) 9370 6507**
 - Credit / debit card payments are accepted.
 - AMEX, Diners Club and cheques are not accepted

Ascot Vale PS Parent Payment Charges

Each family will receive a separate student charge sheet that outlines our suite of charges for each year level in the following categories:

ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS

PART 1 – Essential Student Learning Items

OPTIONAL EDUCATION ITEMS

PART 2 - Excursions and Sport

PART 3 – Camp

PART 4 – Moonee Vale Instrumental Music Program (MVIMP)

PART 5 – Voluntary Contributions

Each of these categories are explained in detail below.

PART 1 - Essential Student Learning Items

This charge covers those items, activities or services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum. These cover expenses for each child in the following categories:

- \$180.00- Essential Students Learning Items. These include classroom and specialist program supplies such as (but not limited to) stationery and craft items; paper, pencils, pens, markers, glue, scissors as well as school wide literacy and numeracy programs.
- \$17.00- Recorder -required once only for year Prep and year 1 students

All families are expected to pay the 2020 Essential Student Learning Items listed on the charge sheet.

PARTS 2 - 5 - Optional Education Items

These are items, activities or services that are offered in addition to or support instruction in the standard curriculum program. These are provided on a user-pays basis so that if parents choose to access them for their child or children, they are required to pay for them.

The school relies on these payments to offer 'value-add' programs and these must be paid on time for children to participate. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact office staff if they have queries about these programs or to arrange a payment plan.

PART 2 - Excursions / Sport/PE / Swimming – Throughout the year, children will have the opportunity to be involved in the following programs which incur additional costs:

a. Excursions / Incursions

This includes excursions (out of school activities) and/or incursions (in school activities) related to the learning focus in classrooms that are organised by classroom teachers.

- Costs will be charged separately in 2020

b. Sport/PE Levy

Payment for sport and PE activities outlined below are due at the beginning of the school year:

- \$25.00 for Years P-1-2 –covers costs for dance
- \$50.00 for Years 3-4 - covers costs for dance, athletics & cricket carnival
- \$127.00 for Years 5-6 – covers dance, athletics and interschool sports

Levies are **non-refundable** except in the event that families leave the school unexpectedly throughout the year and funds remain unspent or allocated

c. Swimming

Swimming lessons are an important part of the school's program and run over a two-week period. The lessons will be provided by trained instructors at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre in 2020. Parents/guardians will receive a permission form and further information regarding swimming in the term before lessons start (via a Compass alert).

- Years P – 2 - \$110 per student
- Years 3-6 \$100 per student

Prior to each activity in any of these categories, parents will receive a note (via a Compass alert) outlining details of the excursion, incursion, Sport/PE or Swimming activity, requesting permission for their child to attend.

PART 3 - Camp - \$50.00 will be collected from students in years 3-4 as a deposit towards the 2020 camp. \$100.00 Deposits will be collected for the 2020 Year 5 /6 Camp to Canberra from 2019.

PART 4 - Moonee Vale Instrumental Music Program (MVIMP)

This is a user pays program offering students in years 3 – 6 the opportunity to learn an instrument (woodwind, brass, strings, percussion, bass guitar) and perform as part of a group. Lessons are provided weekly with two concerts and other performances throughout the year. Year 5 and 6 students may also have the opportunity to attend music camp once during their time in the program. Camp attendance will incur an additional cost. Information regarding tuition costs and organisation is provided at the beginning of the school year.

Students will not be able to attend activities if payments for Parts 2-4 Optional Items have not been received or a payment plan arranged with office staff prior to the activity taking place.

PART 5 - Voluntary Financial Contributions

Parents are invited to make voluntary contributions to the following school funds:

- a. Building Trust Fund
- b. Library Trust Fund

- c. Student Sponsorship
- d. Working Bee

Please note:

- Voluntary contributions paid into the **Library Fund** or the **Building Fund** accounts are tax deductible. Please retain your receipt for tax purposes. These voluntary contributions assist the school in maintaining our facilities and purchasing books.
- The **Student Sponsorship** option enables AVPS to subsidise camps, excursions and sporting events for eligible families. These valuable donations ensure children do not miss participating in important school and learning experiences.
- The **Working Bee** contribution is available for parents who would like to assist but are not available to attend our scheduled working bees during the year. If parents cannot attend and are not involved in other voluntary work at the school, they may choose to make a working bee contribution.

Parent / guardians are encouraged to choose the amount on Compass if they wish to pay any of the voluntary contributions. Donations are very much appreciated by the school.

Support for Families

There are a range of different support options available for all families to help make the costs of education more affordable to them at Ascot Vale PS and to encourage children's participation in important school events. Please contact our office staff for assistance with any of the support items below:

1. **Lowering the cost of essential student learning items where possible.** Ascot Vale PS endeavours to seek competitive supplier costs and to minimise excursion costs where possible through walking or taking public transport between locations.
2. **Second hand strategies.** The school runs a successful second hand school uniform shop where 'pre-loved' items are donated and are available for sale for a gold coin donation.
3. **School Assistance.** The school can assist families by establishing payment plans if necessary. Please contact our office staff for assistance.
4. **Student Sponsorship.** The school is able to provide subsidies for camps, excursions or sport to eligible students due to the generous donations of AVPS families.
5. **Government Assistance Programs.**
 - a. The [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\)](#) to the value of \$125.00 provides payments for eligible students to go towards the cost of camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply and a Special Consideration eligibility category also exists. Please note, if a child leaves AVPS throughout the year, the remainder of their unspent CSEF will be transferred to their next school.
 - b. [State Schools' Relief](#) may cover the cost of new school uniforms, shoes, books and more for disadvantaged students. State Schools' Relief only responds to requests from school principals, assistant principals or welfare coordinators. Parents or Carers who are struggling need to make an appointment with the school to discuss their situation.
6. **Community Assistance.** The school is able to provide families with links with local services and welfare groups which can provide specialist support and assistance to students and families in financial crisis. The school also provides a student sponsorship program to assist such families in need.
7. **Commonwealth Family Assistance.** The Commonwealth Government provides a range of payments and services to help families look after their children's health,

education and other family issues. Please contact our office staff to arrange assistance if necessary.

Communication with families

Families will receive a student charges sheet and accompany explanations of our suite of payments at the end of the school year. Payments will be accepted online via Compass or in person at the office in the new school year. Families will be reminded about our student charges arrangements via the newsletter and compass alerts.

Statements will be sent home throughout the year, enabling parents to check and monitor all payments. Please note, Part 5 – Voluntary Contributions will not be listed on these statements. Accounts are requested to be settled as soon as possible in the New Year or term to enable programs to run smoothly.

Monitoring and review of the implementation of the policy

Ascot Vale PS will monitor the effectiveness and impact of the implementation of this policy at least annually (term 4), via the finance sub-committee of school council. This committee will continue to monitor and oversee the collection and expenditure of all student charges throughout the year. Policy and charges updates will be reported to the school community via the newsletter and compass alerts.

The full Parent Payment Policy is available from the Department's [School Policy and Advisory Guide](#).

Answers to the most commonly asked questions about school costs for parents see: [Frequently Asked Questions – For Parents](#)

Date of approval by School Council: 21st October 2019

Please contact our office staff to arrange assistance if necessary.

Additional Extra Curricular or Care Opportunities Available at AVPS –

Please note the following items are optional and are not included on the Student Charges Sheet. Information regarding these learning partnerships is also available on the last page of our fortnightly newsletter, available at: <http://www.avps.vic.edu.au/newsletter.html> .

Learning Partnerships – school time – The following extra-curricular programs will continue to operate onsite at AVPS during school hours, run by external organisations in 2019:

- a. ***Piano Lessons** – Piano lessons are run at AVPS by Lamplight Music. All arrangements are to be made with Joshua Cowie on 0413 884 067. The program is available for students in Years 1–6.
- b. ***Guitar Lessons** – guitar lessons are available for students in Years 2 – 6 and is run by Luke Collins. All arrangements for guitar lessons are to be made with Luke: 0422 329 946.

Learning Partnerships – outside school time – The following extra-curricular programs will continue to operate onsite at AVPS outside of school hours, run by external organisations in 2019:

- c. ***Dance Theatre** P-6 by arrangement with: Raelene or Bruno: 0423 089 981 or 0421 859 540 dancetheatre@gmail.com
- d. ***Kelly Sports** ENROL ONLINE: www.kellysports.com.au/events or 0403 149 391 email: mitch@kellysports.com.au
- e. ***Soccer Time Kids** Phone: 1300 476 223 www.soccertimekids.com.au

- f. **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)** – The AVPS OSHC program is run by Camp Australia. Enrolment forms are available on line at Camp Australia Customer Service, <https://www.campastralia.com.au/>, by phone 1300 105 343 or by calling Dee at the Out of School Hours Program on 0423 795 247.

*A limited number of learning partnership scholarships are available for items a-e above to eligible families, i.e., who are concession cardholders. Scholarships will be determined by lottery if more than one child is considered. These scholarships usually provide one term of tuition with our learning partnership companies. Please contact the office if you have any questions about learning partnership scholarships.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Osborne
Principal