St. Arnaud Primary School Parent Payment Policy

School councils are able to request payments or contributions for education items and services from parents and guardians for students in Victorian government schools in the three categories – essential education items, optional education items and voluntary financial contributions.

St. Arnaud Primary School does not provide essential education items, instead it outsources this service. The book packs contain high quality materials at a competitive price.

Parents and guardians also have the option of purchasing equivalent materials from other sources.

Parent Payment Categories relevant to St. Arnaud Primary School

Optional education items (or non-essential materials and services) are those that are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and which are offered to all students. These optional extras are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents and guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them.

These items include:

- School Performances
- Bus transport for whole school sports
- Swimming program
- School magazines

Financial contributions are for those items and services that parents and guardians are invited to make a contribution to the school, for example for grounds maintenance, additional computer and art equipment, updated school furniture, gardens, shade sails and playground equipment.

Other support options

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting requests for payments and contributions. A range of support options are available to assist parents, including the School Start Bonus, the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and State Schools Relief Committee support.
**Education Maintenance Allowance**

A parent or guardian of a child under 16 years of age who holds an eligible Centrelink benefit and a Health Care Card or pension card, may be entitled to the Education Maintenance Allowance, the annual allowance amount is split evenly between the parents and the school.

The school’s portion of the EMA will not be used to offset voluntary financial contributions.

The school will manage the parent payment arrangements to coincide with the timing of the availability of Education Maintenance Allowance.

**Payment arrangements**

Parents and guardians will be provided with early notice of payment requests for optional extras and voluntary financial contributions.

Alternative payment options are available through the school with parents encouraged to make an appointment with the school to discuss circumstances and available options.

Receipts will be issued to parents immediately upon making payment.

Reminders for optional items will be generated and distributed on a regular basis to parents, but not more than once a month.

Only the initial invitation for financial contributions and one reminder notice will be issued to parents and guardians.

All records of payments or contributions and any outstanding payments by parents and guardians are kept confidential.

In 2012 the payment system applies:

2012 School Fees

**$100 covers school fees and ALL optional extras**

However, if parents wish to pay as they go, they can pay the $60 contribution and then pay for the Optional Extras as they occur.

*** Keep in mind – there will be a cut off date for seats on the bus and school magazine orders—if you are choosing to pay as you go – it is vital that you adhere to these dates

$60  Financial contribution component [covers Grounds, computers, shade sails, gardens, additional art materials, future playground equipment]

The Optional extras for 2012 are:

- Performances x 3  $8 per show  $24 total for three shows [parent club pay for show 1]
- Swimming  $5  [Covers life guard/teacher training costs]
- Bus for Donald Whole School Athletics Day  $10
- School Magazine  $10

HOWEVER, if you don’t want the stress of your child potentially missing out, families can pay for Financial contributions AND Optional extras in one go, they can pay the reduced rate of

**$100**

This will ensure that your child does not miss out on any event/service AND you save money.

Ratified by St. Arnaud Primary School Council  NOVEMBER 2011