



Independent Public School



FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Margaret River Senior High School is an Independent Public School and therefore is bound by the School Education Act 1999 and the School Education Act Regulations 2000. The structure for contributions and charges remain the same as all public schools. Parents are reminded that voluntary contributions go towards the cost of materials, services and facilities that students will utilize.

The school community is appreciative of the financial support given by parents and guardians which enables staff to continue to offer quality educational programs, *at the lowest possible cost to families*. The School Board approves and endorses the level of voluntary contributions, compulsory charges, extra cost optional components and voluntary approved requests.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The State Government, through the Department of Education, provides financial support to eligible parents through the Education Programme Allowance (EPA). The aim of this scheme is to assist low income families with secondary schooling costs.

Please find below the different types of allowances that can be accessed:

EPA – Education Programme Allowance – Eligible claimants will receive \$235 paid to the school.

Clothing Allowance – \$ 115 payment to the school or parent/guardian.

Abstudy Allowance – \$156 assistance for secondary school Aboriginal students. Parents should contact Centrelink on 13 2317.

Abstudy Supplementary Allowance – \$79 paid to the school. To be eligible, parent/school must have received \$156 Abstudy from Centrelink.

In order to access this scheme, parents or legal guardians must hold one of the following **valid** cards:

- Centrelink Family Health Care Card.
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card.
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

Allowance figures as of 2013.

Please note that the applications need to be completed during Term 1.

REFUND POLICY

The refund or transfer of charges and voluntary contributions will be completed in accordance with the Department's "Refunds of Charges and Voluntary Contributions in Secondary Schools" documentation.

Payments, including deposits for camps, excursions and incursions will not be refundable where there has been a cost to the school. The school board has endorsed refunds to be issued for amounts of \$30.00 and above, amounts below \$30.00 will be credited to the student's account and will be used to offset other costs as directed by parents.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A broad range of scholarships are available to secondary students. Information regarding scholarships can be found on the website: www.det.wa.edu.au/inclusiveeducation

The school recognises that the socio-economic background of many families requires special consideration.

This financial consideration will be given to those families in genuine need. Families need to recognise that there are considerable constraints in operating a school.

1. Accounts will be mailed to parents at the beginning of the year. Reminder statements will be mailed four times per year or emailed to families where payments have not been made by the due date. This will be followed up with phone calls where necessary. If accounts remain outstanding and no contact is received from families within the specified time, an interview will be required with the Business Manager or Principal to discuss the development of a payment plan.
2. Where a student's current year compulsory charges have not been paid in full, the School Board has endorsed a 50% confirmation charge for extra cost optional components for the following year.
3. Parents/guardians are encouraged to make contact with the school's Business Manager if they are experiencing difficulties paying Voluntary Contributions and Charges by the due date. The Business Manager or Principal have the discretion to negotiate and recommend a payment arrangement that is suitable to both the family and the school. A payment arrangement, once established, will be expected to be adhered to.
4. Where parents/guardians fail to respond to communication from the school and/or will not come to an arrangement on the payment, a Collection Agency will be engaged to recover outstanding charges.

Please refer to our Voluntary Contributions and Charges Booklet for the deadline of the full payment and further information.

Application forms and eligibility requirements are now available from the front office or school website.



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