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STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME 2017

FURTHER INFORMATION

PAYMENT OPTIONS

QParents is the department's secure online parent portal where you can stay up to date your child's student information and billing. This is the first port of call to keep you connected with your child's reports, timetables and invoice details.

All **QParent** registered 2016 families can pay for all activities / excursions and resources online in one easy step. If you are not already registered and would like to find out more about this fantastic application please come and see the administration team at reception for further information.

For our new 2017 students, we will be inviting you to register early in term 1 2017.

There are a number of other payment options outside of QParents but our next preferred method is BPOINT:

BPOINT is a secure card payment collection portal provided by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). This option allows you to make payments on school invoices from home/work or on your smartphones. You can use debit or credit cards as long as they have the MasterCard or Visa symbol. Payments made via BPOINT are auto receipted and auto matched in our OneSchool Finance system. The Bpoint web link will appear on your invoices and statements (www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete) along with the appropriate reference numbers to use. You may still pay by cheque, cash or credit card over the phone if you wish, but the Department of Education and Training is promoting BPOINT as the preferred payment method from now on.

Other pay methods:

Paying by credit card.....please complete the details on the Participation Agreement Form. In the Timing of payments box you will find two choices, 'pay now' or 'pay by instalments'. If you decide to pay by instalments you will need to ensure the card details you enter on the back of the form have an expiry date later than the 17th of February 2017 as the school will automatically process the second instalment on or just after that date.

Paying by cash/cheque.....please include this when returning your form to the office. Cheques should be made out to Samford State School.

Paying by BPAY.... The BPAY information will appear on your invoices and statements along with the appropriate reference numbers to use.

you must return the participation form to school office to finalise your inclusion in the scheme.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

AM I ABLE TO JOIN THE SCHEME AND ONLY PAY FOR SELECTED ITEMS? No. For the scheme to be cost effective and viable full participation is necessary.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD LEAVES DURING THE COURSE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR? Students leaving the school will be entitled, after receipt of a written request, to a pro-rata refund. Forms requesting a refund are available from the school office and should be completed when informing the school of the students' departure.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM ENROLLING MY STUDENT LATER IN THE YEAR? If students enrol at the school after first term, the fee will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

AM I ABLE TO JOIN THE SCHEME IF I HAVE OVERDUE PAYMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR? Families with outstanding amounts from previous years and who wish to participate in the scheme in 2017 **MUST** contact Nunzi Hyde, the Business Services Manager (34309111) to discuss payment details.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES? Please contact the Business Services Manager if financial hardship exists so that special arrangements can be made to meet your needs. There are a number of options available if you are in this situation. Please be assured that all discussions will be held in confidence.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME AND DO NOT PAY ANY OF THE AMOUNTS OWING? While it is voluntary to join this scheme, once a commitment is made, there is an obligation on participating parents/caregivers to make these payments or provide their own resources.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SCHEME? Parents/caregivers who **do not** wish to participate in this scheme should complete the form, ticking the **NO** box and return it to the school office so that we know that you have made this decision and we will not need to follow up with you around payment. From **Thursday 8th December 2016** you will be able to collect a start-up booklist from the school office.

Parents/caregivers who **do not** wish to participate in the scheme will need to liaise with their individual class teacher throughout the year as stationery/texts/art materials, etc. are needed. The start-up booklist is a skeleton list to allow teachers the flexibility to order additional stationery/texts/etc as they are needed for units of work in each term.

IF I NEED FURTHER INFORMATION? Any enquiries regarding the Student Resource Scheme may be directed to the school office.



EDUCATION QUEENSLAND'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

Purpose of the Scheme

1. In accordance with the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, the cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students enrolled at State schools who are Australian citizens or permanent residents, or children of Australian citizens or permanent residents, is met by the State.
2. Parents are directly responsible for providing textbooks and other personal resources for their children while attending school. In recognition that these costs can be high, the school operates a Student Resource Scheme (the "scheme") that enables a parent to enter into an agreement with the school that, for a specified annual participation fee, provides for the temporary use by the student of prescribed textbooks and/or other resources, and/or the purchase of consumables and materials for the student.
3. A Student Resource Scheme is separate to and distinct from a request for a voluntary financial contribution.

Benefits of the Scheme

4. The purpose of the scheme is to provide the parent with a cost effective alternative to purchasing textbooks and/or resources elsewhere, through reduced prices gained from the school's bulk purchasing practices.
5. The scheme also ensures that students have consistent personal resources for their education, and saves the parent time and money in sourcing the prescribed materials elsewhere.
6. The scheme is not used to raise funds for other purposes, and revenue collected through the scheme is applied only to the operation of the scheme.

Participation in the Scheme

7. Participation in the scheme is voluntary, and there is no obligation on a parent to participate in the scheme. A parent's decision to participate or not is based on consideration of the value afforded to them by the scheme.
8. The completed and signed Participation Agreement Form should be returned to the school by the advertised date to indicate participation or non-participation in the scheme.
9. If a parent chooses to participate in the scheme and completes the Participation Agreement Form, a fee will be due and payable by the parent for the items provided by the scheme to the student.
10. Payment of the participation fee is a requirement for continued participation in the scheme. An unpaid fee will be subject to the school's debt collection processes.
11. A parent who does not wish to participate in the student resource scheme shall inform the school by completing the Participation Agreement Form and returning it to the Administration Office. Arrangements will be made for the parents of students in Years 8 to 12 or of secondary education age to be paid the value of the Textbook and Resource Allowance for each of their eligible children.
12. A parent who chooses not to participate in the scheme is responsible for providing the student with all items that would otherwise be provided to the student by the scheme as detailed on the *Year Level Requirements List* and/or *Subject Requirements List*, to enable the student to engage with the curriculum.



Parents and Citizens' Association Support of the Scheme

13. The operation of the Student Resource Scheme is discussed annually at a meeting of the Parents and Citizens' Association. Parents are extended an invitation to attend this meeting and provided with an opportunity to express their opinions. A vote is taken at this meeting on supporting the operation of the scheme.

Textbook and Resource Allowance

14. The Queensland Government provides financial assistance to parents of students in Years 8 to 12 or of secondary education age, attending State and approved non-State schools, to offset the costs of textbooks and other resources. Assistance is provided in the form of a Textbook and Resource Allowance which is paid once a calendar year through the school. Parents have the option to receive the allowance directly from the school or as an offset of fees associated with participation in the school's Student Resource Scheme. This option is made available to each parent annually by the school. Current allowance rates are available from <http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/html/parstu.html>

Payment Arrangements

15. Payment of the participation fee may be made by EFTPOS (MasterCard; Visa; where accepted by the school), cheque, or cash.

16. For payment made by direct deposit (EFT) to the bank account indicated on the front of the form, please ensure that the payment reference includes the reference as indicated on the front of this form. The acknowledgement from your financial institution of the successful electronic transfer of funds should be retained as your record of payment.

17. Payment of the participation fee may be made in whole or by instalment as indicated on the Participation Agreement Form or for another amount as approved by the Principal.

18. For payments made in person by cash, cheque or credit/debit card, a receipt will be provided to the payer. Where payments are received by other methods, a receipt will be provided on request. All receipts and documentation on the scheme should be retained by the parent for future reference and possible taxation purposes.

Parent Experiencing Financial Difficulties

19. A parent wishing to participate in the Student Resource Scheme and experiencing financial hardship is encouraged to contact the principal to discuss how their financial obligations can be met throughout the school year, or to negotiate alternative arrangements that may be available to accommodate their individual circumstances. All discussions will be held in the strictest confidence.

20. The onus of proof of being so affected is on the parent, and might include a current Health Care Card or other evidence to establish financial hardship.

21. Any concessions given to the participation fee will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Terms and Conditions of Participation in the Scheme

22. For the purposes of the scheme, where a student is living independent of his/her parents, reference in the terms and conditions to "parent" is a reference to the independent student.

23. Where a parent chooses to join the scheme and completes a Participation Agreement Form, an annual participation fee will be due and payable by the parent to the Student Resource Scheme.



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Terms and Conditions of Participation in the Scheme (cont'd)

24. In return for payment of the participation fee, the scheme will provide the participating student with textbooks and/or resources, consumables and materials as listed on the *Year Level Requirements List* and/or *Subject Requirements List* as being provided by the scheme, when due for the student's use.

25. Payment of the participation fee is to be made according to the payment arrangement option indicated by the parent on the Participation Agreement Form, or as otherwise approved by the Principal.

26. Non-payment of the participation fee by the designated payment date(s) will generate a reminder notice to the parent/carer from the school at intervals of 30 days overdue and 60 days overdue. The Principal may thereafter undertake debt recovery action for the overdue participation fee including, where warranted, referral to an external debt collection agency. This may result in extra costs being incurred by the parent.

27. Without limiting any other action the Principal may take in accordance with these terms and conditions, subject to 26 above, the Principal may withdraw a student's participation in the scheme due to non-payment of a participation fee, and/or may require the return of items provided by the scheme for the temporary use of the student, and/or may withhold the giving of any further items under the scheme until the debt is paid.

28. The Principal may refuse to admit a student to the scheme where participation fees are overdue from the previous year's scheme.

29. Where participation fees are overdue, the Principal has the discretion to exclude a student from an optional extra curricula school activity.

30. The scheme provides the entire package for the specified participation fee, and is not available in parts unless specifically provided for by the school in the fee structure.

31. All textbooks and resources provided for temporary use by the scheme remain the property of the scheme and shall be returned at the end of the course or school year or when the student leaves the school, whichever is the earlier. Where an item is not returned, the parent will be responsible for payment to the scheme of the replacement cost of the item. Failure to make payment may result in debt recovery action being undertaken.

32. Textbooks and other resources provided for temporary student use by the scheme shall be kept in good condition by the student. The school Administration Office shall be notified immediately of the loss or negligent damage to any issued item. Where an issued item is lost or negligently damaged, parents will be responsible for payment to the scheme of the replacement cost of the item. Failure to make payment may result in debt recovery action being undertaken.

33. The parent is responsible for supplying the student with any additional student materials that are not provided by the Student Resource Scheme, as indicated on the *Year Level Requirements List* and/or *Subject Requirements List* or otherwise advised by the school.

34. If a student enters the scheme after the first week of school, a pro-rata participation fee will apply, calculated on a 40-week school year basis.

35. If a student, having paid a participation fee, leaves the school through the year, a pro-rata refund will be made to the parent, calculated on the participation fee paid, less the cost of consumed materials and the replacement cost of scheme items that are lost or negligently damaged or not returned, plus the pro-rata Textbook and Resource Allowance calculated on a 40-week school year basis.

36. As the scheme operates for the benefit of participating parents and is funded solely from participation fees, resources provided by the scheme will not be issued to students whose parents choose not to participate in the scheme.