



BRIGHTON
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

The information set out below seeks to give you a detailed understanding of our parent contributions for 2021.

This information is an exemplar based on our year seven charges. There will be some variation in charges across year levels because student subject choices vary from year to year, but this will give you a very good idea of our parent payment structure.

Also included is the introductory text from our Parent Payment tab in Compass, as well as my annual letter to parents about our college charges. Our parent payment policy can also be found on our website under the Community tab.

If you have any questions about college charges, please contact the school at:

Family finances email address: familyfinance@brightonsc.vic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Richard Minack

Principal

COMPASS PARENT PAYMENT INTRODUCTION

Dear Families,

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has changed the interpretation of the parent payment policy. In short, it means that some items which were previously classified as essential parts of school fees are now treated as voluntary.

In our school fees, the main item re-allocated from essential to voluntary categories is the Student Learning Support Services Charge. This levy is what we use to pay for the many additional staff we employ, whose work benefits all students in the school. This includes additional IT support staff, wellbeing staff, first aid officer, facilities maintenance staff, and careers and pathways counsellors.

If sufficient numbers of parents choose not to make these, now voluntary, contributions, and our school fee collection drops, we will need to cut these services, as the DET does not fund them. Therefore, our total school fees have remained unchanged from 2020, and I urge that you pay the whole amount, which includes the Student Learning Support Services Charge.

To read a fuller account of these changes, please copy and paste the link below into a new browser and navigate to College Information>College Charges>Principal's Letter

<https://brightonsc-vic.compass.education/Communicate/SchoolDocumentation.aspx>

The College 2021 Parent Payment Policy can be viewed here by copying the link into a new browser

<https://brightonsc.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/Parent-Payment-Policy-2021.pdf>



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PRINCIPALS COLLEGE CHARGES LETTER

25th November 2020

IN 2020, 50% OF BSC FAMILIES MADE THEIR PAYMENTS BY THE 1ST DAY OF TERM 1.

Dear Families,

As we emerge from an extraordinarily arduous year, it is time to look forward to 2021. Firstly, I would like to recognise the enormously challenging year it has been for everyone, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the College, our teachers, and your children. COVID-19 has ignited the best in the vast majority of our community, and we look forward to re-building on these efforts in the future.

2021: ADAPTING TO COVID CONDITIONS

Like many small and large businesses, organisations and not-for-profits, BSC has experienced stark financial impacts in 2020. For example, our canteen has been closed, however, salaries are still being paid, our gym hire has ceased, and our International student cohort has been significantly reduced. This means our locally raised funds have been dramatically lowered. We have worked to retain our staff as well as bringing in additional staff to support any health issues.

In addition, the Department of Education (DET) has advised schools that, in 2021, some of the costs we have requested payment for under Essential Student Learning items (ESLI) in previous years can no longer be charged as Essential. Please see the College Parent Payment Policy <https://brightonsc.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/Parent-Payment-Policy-2021.pdf> for more information.

As a result of these changes the College management team has re-focused, made savings on most expense items, and worked with DET to openly discuss solutions. BSC, along with many other local schools which are facing financial difficulties, have not received extra funding from the DET.

PARENT PAYMENTS

BSC has been very fortunate in past years to receive strong parent support through payment of ESLI which has supported our children's success and provided a wide-ranging academic and co-curricular program. We have been able to set our recommended charges in line with our budgetary commitments, and successfully run programs for student wellbeing, and provide major and minor upgrades to buildings, grounds, and classroom technology for the benefit of all students.

Each year we ask for your contributions to three areas which go to providing a higher standard of resources for our students. These are:

1. Essential Student Learning Items (ESLI) are items and activities which the school deems as essential for student learning, without which, students would be unable to access the school's delivery of the standard curriculum. This includes activities or services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum. For example, our students benefit directly by using online resources for Maths, English, LOTE and classroom music. Other items include art and technology supplies, cooking ingredients, science supplies and diaries.
2. Optional Items are items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students, and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum. These items are provided on a user-pays basis so that if parents choose to access them for students, they are required to pay for them. For example, the IB or the Instrumental Music programs.
3. Voluntary Financial Contributions (VFCs) are donations that College Council may invite parents to make, for a stated purpose. For 2021 we are inviting families who are in a position to donate to the College to please do so for the bulk Student Services Support Charge. Please follow the link to read more about our request for your support



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IMPORTANT CHANGES EXPLAINED

In the past, Victorian schools have been able to consolidate expenses such as Library staff, ICT support, Well-Being staff, in-house psychologists, travel to sports games, purchase of data projectors and improved internet access into a higher Essential Student Learning Items charge.

From 2021 DET has determined we can no longer combine expenses in this way.

This year, therefore, you will see a significantly reduced ESLI charge per student and a request for a higher Voluntary Financial Contribution. Please note that the 2021 Parent Payments overall is equal to the amount that would have been requested prior to the change in DET policy.

Both the Essential Student Learning Items and the Voluntary Financial contribution (VFC) are able to be made over four payments as in previous years via Compass.)

I would like to re-confirm that the full amount of Voluntary Financial Contribution payments is applied to services and resources for the benefit of our whole student community now, and in the future.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like more details or clarification.

THE PRACTICALITIES: COURSE CONFIRMATION AND PAYMENT VIA COMPASS

Our College Policies are now available in Compass under the School Documentation section (College Information; College Policies). It is an expectation of enrolment that you take the time to review our College Policies by copying and pasting the following link into your browser <https://brightonsc.vic.edu.au/community/policies/>

We also utilise Compass for family payments of Essential Student Learning Items, camps and activities, however it does not allow for split billing. We, therefore, respectfully request those parents whose situation requires this to manage payments between themselves. If a court order is in place which makes it impossible to use Compass, please email familyfinance@brightonsc.vic.edu.au

As always, BSC has, and continues, to be sensitive to families that may be experiencing short or long-term hardship. Please, if you are experiencing financial difficulties, we encourage you to make contact via email to familyfinance@brightonsc.vic.edu.au to discuss options in confidence.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Minack
Principal



BRIGHTON
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BRIGHTON SECONDARY COLLEGE FEES

EXEMPLAR PARENT PAYMENT

ESSENTIAL LEARNING ITEMS		
ITEM	COST	DESCRIPTION
College ID Card	\$15	Contributes to the cost of providing student ID cards.
College Student Diary	\$15	Students will benefit from using a diary as a learning tool for planning, learning, managing homework and workload expectations. Both parents and teachers will be able to access information to support students learning
Classroom Music	\$20	Musition, Auralia and Soundtrap software for all students enrolled in 7, 8, 9 and 10 classroom music
Art Technology	\$140	Art Technology Charges cover costs for Food Technology, Art, Creative Writing, Media, Drama, Entrepreneurship and Coding/ Robotics. Two units are undertaken each semester as per the curriculum structure outlined in the student handbook. Students take possession of these finished products in each of these studies which may include paper, ceramic, textile or food materials.
English	\$60	Includes online resource "Education Perfect".
Science	\$60	Contributes to the cost of providing excursions and incursions.
Humanities	\$40	Contributes to the cost of providing additional classroom learning resources such as specialist reference texts, models, software licence.
Languages	\$40	Includes online resource "Language Perfect" and contributes to the cost of providing additional classroom learning resources such as additional audio texts.
Health and Physical Education	\$60	Contributes to the cost of providing excursion transport and entry fees, incursion fees for guest speakers, specialist sport instructors and other presentations.
Maths	\$60	Includes online resource "Maths Pathways" as well as contributing to the cost of providing additional practical materials, instructional resources, excursion and incursion fees for guest speakers and other presentations such as "World of Maths."
PASE (Physical and Sport Education)	\$180	Contributes to the cost of providing transport, venue costs, officials, schools sports association and entry fees as well as socks and mouth-guards which are provided to students to keep.
All College Sport, Swimming and Athletics Day	\$35	Contributes to the cost of providing travel and venue hire for all whole-school sport days - swimming and athletics carnivals.



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OPTIONAL LEARNING ITEMS

ITEMS	COST	DESCRIPTION
College Chorals Festival	\$20	The annual House Chorals event is a celebration of the Arts in performance, music, and song. It is a highlight on the BSC Calendar and all students and staff are invited to participate.
Lock	\$20	The lock will be provided by the College for Year 7 students. If the lock is lost, a replacement will be required at a cost of \$20

VOLUNTARY LEARNING ITEMS

ITEMS	COST	DESCRIPTION
Student Learning Support Services Charge	\$420	The Student Learning Support Services charge allows the college to employ a significant number of extra staff to support your child's learning which the DET does not provide funding for. These staff include: library staff, ICT support staff, in-house psychologists, social worker and student counsellors, as well as careers and pathways counsellors, and school facility maintenance staff. These staff run extremely valuable programs that support student wellbeing, student learning as well as ensure we have the best possible physical environment which promotes and supports student learning. This charge also supports the provision of, and access to, learning resources such as data projectors, enhanced internet access, and technical support for ICT.