2027

Government School Levies and Charges Policy

Lansdowne Crescent Primary

Department for Education,
Children and Young People

Tasmanian Government

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1 Purpose

- This policy and the associated procedure meet the requirement under the *Education Act 2016* for the principal of a Government School to develop a policy on levies and charges for each year in accordance with Secretary's Instruction No 9 for School Levies and Charges.
- This policy does not detail all requirements for levies and charges practices. These requirements are detailed in full in the School Levies and Charges Procedure [staff only access at this time].

2 Policy Statement

Parents with children enrolled at Government Schools contribute towards the cost of their child's education through school levies and charges. Levies and charges are just one of the ways that parents contribute to their child's school. The Department for Education, Children and Young People recognises the other valuable contributions families make to school communities through volunteering, fundraising and other activities.

In adhering to Secretary's Instruction No 9, this Policy and the School Levies and Charges Procedure [staff only access at this time]:

- Schools MUST consider inclusive education, family financial constraints and community expectations when determining school levies and charges.
- Levies MUST be set at the minimum amount possible.
- The principal MUST consult with the School Association in the development of the school-specific Levies and Charges Policy.
- The school-specific Levies and Charges Policy MUST be developed and implemented in accordance with the School Levies and Charges Procedure [staff only access at this time].

3 Levies and Charges Requirements

3.1 Levies for 2027

Parents of Kindergarten to Year 10 students contribute towards the cost of essential items and services that support normal educational instruction through payment of an annual all-inclusive levy for their child. It is intended that Colleges and Year 11 and 12 at Extension Schools will make the transition to an all-inclusive levy for the 2025 school year.

Once parents have paid the levy, the school will not request any additional payments for essential items or services needed in that school year.

Families who are supported through the Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) do not need to pay levies. Applications for the Student Assistance Scheme may be made online, or paper forms collected from the front office at the school.

Levies include costs for all items and services that are required to complete the normal educational instruction at the school.

School uniforms are not included in the levy. Other specific examples and exceptions are detailed in the School Levies and Charges Procedure [staff only access at this time].

YEAR LEVEL	AMOUNT	ITEMS AND SERVICES INCLUDED
Kinder	$250	Stationery Excursions Visting performances Other learning materials Additional craft consumables Printing and photocopying Yearbook * oldest in the family
Prep – Year 2	$350	Stationery Excursions Visiting performance Swimming and water safety program Workshops Printing and photocopying Other learning materials * Yearbook- oldest in the family
Year 3-4	$350	Stationery Excursions Visiting performance Swimming and water safety program Growing Up Program Workshops Printing and photocopying Other learning materials Bike Ed Program- Year 4 *Yearbook- oldest in family

YEAR LEVEL	AMOUNT	ITEMS AND SERVICES INCLUDED
Year 5-6	$670	Stationery Excursions Visiting performance Swimming and water safety program Workshops Growing Up Program Printing and photocopying Other learning materials * Yearbook- oldest in the family Camp- $320

3.2 Charges for 2027

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY OR ITEM	CHARGE	PAYMENT DATE
Triathlon	$35 approx	Term Three
School Photos	$25 - $60 approx	Term One

4 Payment Options

Payment of levies can be made in full in Term One each year or by instalments using a payment plan. Payment plans are flexible and can continue throughout the school year.

If none of the payment options listed is suitable for your family, you can request a different payment option through the school's contact person for levies and charges (see next section titled Communicating about Levies and Charges for contact details).

Parents can set up a payment plan using BPAY or Centrepay. The process for this is outlined in the automated invoices sent to families which contain families own personalised BPAY reference number. Upon receipt of this families may choose to pay levies in the following ways:

- Four equal payments to be paid at the end of each term
- Two equal payments, one in week one of Term Two and the other in week one of Term Three
- Fortnightly payments with full payment to be completed by the end of the school year (last week of Term Four).

Monthly statements are mailed out to families until the levy debt is cleared. This will show the current amount outstanding for your child.

4.1 Communicating about Levies and Charges

The school will communicate levies and charges for the following school year by Week Seven of Term Four each year.

Parents experiencing financial hardship are invited to contact the school for information on the financial support options that are available.

The Financial Services Unit within the Department for Education, Children and Young People can also be contacted for information on financial support options offered by the Department such as the Student Assistance Scheme at stas@decyp.tas.gov.au or on 1800 827 055.

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback on school levies and charges, the contact person for levies and charges at Lansdowne Crescent Primary is: Kirsty Morgan via email Kirsty.morgan@decyp.tas.gov.au or Ph 6234 1030.

5 Related Policies

- Bring Your Own Technology Policy

6 Related Procedures

- Bring Your Own Technology Procedures
- School Levies and Charges Procedure [staff only]

7 Supporting Information/Tools

- Accountabilities Toolkit
- Legal Services Toolkit for Schools, Colleges and CFLCs
- Levies and Charges – DECYP Web Page
- Student Financial Assistance Guidelines
- Schools Best Practice Guideline for Levies, Charges and Student Assistance

8 Definitions

Charges

Parent payments for optional activities that are in addition to the normal educational instruction at the school.

Levies

An annual parent payment that includes incidental costs and expenses incurred in providing normal educational instruction.

Normal educational instruction

Educational instruction that is required to complete any subject or course that students undertake through a Government School. This does not include educational instruction that occurs during optional activities that are not required to complete a subject or course.

Parent

A parent or a legal guardian or anyone with care and control of a child.

Principal

The individual in charge of the day-to-day operation of a school.

School Association

Made up of the parents, staff and approved community members of a school. An Association exists for each Tasmanian Government School, including primary schools, high schools, district schools and colleges.

Student Assistance Scheme (STAS)

A scheme that waives levies for eligible families who hold a current Centrelink Health Care Card, Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

9 Legislation

- Education Act 2016
- Secretary's Instruction No 9 for School Levies and Charges

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