



October 2021

2022 Family Financial Contributions

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Department of Education (DET) has changed the terms state schools use when seeking financial contributions from parents. From 2022 the financial contribution statements sent to families will look different.

Financial contributions from our families are vital to the quality of the education experience we provide.

Government schools provide free education and there are no compulsory fees charged. However, additional payments – previously called “essential” fees - from our parent community ensure we have a sufficient budget for the unique learning opportunities offered at MGSC; and the progressive learning programs offered at all year levels.

The College Council has provided some background information about the financial arrangements at MGSC to support the financial contribution statement enclosed.

Preparations for the 2022 are underway. Securing payments before the end of the financial year will give us confidence to proceed with delivering the exciting program planned for the next school year.

We invite our school community to support their school through your timely contributions.

Any questions, please contact our Business Manager.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Brown
Principal

Rachael Angus
College Council President



Information from the College Council about the financial arrangements at MGSC

State Schools are funded by the Department of Education, including a budget for staff salaries and provision of the physical buildings. In addition, schools receive an annual cash grant from DET, based on enrolments, which subsidises the cost of utilities, building maintenance, staff absence replacement. Funding is also given for DET led specific student initiatives, eg: the current Tutor program, student mental health support, promotion of student excellence, literacy and numeracy programs and career education.

DET recognises that their base funding is not sufficient to provide the high-quality education students need in today's complex world and be able to compete on a level playing field with privately educated cohorts for university places and employment. Therefore, DET allows schools to ask families for financial contributions to address shortfalls.

For schools with high enrolments from areas of socio-economic disadvantage, significant, additional funding is provided. This "Equity" funding was introduced as a result of the historic Gonski Report, which recommended a national "needs-based" funding model. The Equity funding assists schools to employ additional staff to support students. In addition, as recognition that families on lower incomes will not be able to contribute financially, extra cash funding, which is used to enhance and broaden the curriculum.

In middle class areas, where less students are socio-economic disadvantaged, schools receive a correspondingly low amount of Equity funding. MGSC fits into this category and thus we receive a small amount of "Equity" funding to subsidise and support students from low-income families. The formula takes into consideration that some parents are in a financial position to contribute financially to a level, which is roughly equivalent to the equity received for the disadvantaged students. Hence DET allow state schools to make this request of parents. The aim is to have all schools in the same financial position to provide a high-quality educational experience for their students.

We appreciate the high proportion of MGSC parents who have historically paid the contributions. With these additional funds, we can provide a more dynamic and engaging curriculum to students.

Each year the College Council, through the Financial Sub-Committee, scrutinise the monthly financial reports, ensuring every dollar received from families is used during the school year and for the direct and immediate benefit to each student.

Parents have made these payments voluntarily in the past. There are, and never have been, any consequences for families who choose not to contribute. However, our school, like our neighbours and indeed all similar governments schools in Victoria, are highly dependent on receiving these funds.

Financial Contributions from parents make a fundamental difference to our ability to offer a comprehensive and unique experience for our students, one of which we are extremely proud.