

2 October 2020

Dear parents / caregivers,

In accordance with Government Administrative Instructions and Guidelines issued by the Department for Education relating to the Materials and Services Charges for 2021, please find attached the proposed “Notice of Charges” for the various year levels of schooling.

Brighton Secondary School hereby officially notifies parents/caregivers that the Materials and Services Charges for 2021 will be presented to the Governing Council at their meeting to be held on Monday 19 October 2020 at 7.00pm in the school library, for discussion and approval.

Parents/ caregivers are invited to attend the meeting, however, voting is restricted only to elected members of the Governing Council. In lieu of attendance, parents can express their views in writing addressed to the Chairperson of the Governing Council. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on numbers, you will need to advise the school if you wish to attend.

Parents/caregivers are also advised that the ‘Notice of Charges’ attached provides a breakdown of the actual Material and Services Charges – these charges cover only essential curriculum requirements. There may be additional cost for excursions, camps, projects requiring more than the basic materials, VET courses and so on throughout the year.

If you have any questions or if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please contact the Business Leader, Veronica Galati on 8375 8200 or via email at veronica.galati32@schools.sa.edu.au

Kind regards

Alexis Watt
Governing Council Chairperson

Tony Lunniss
Principal

MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGES 2021

Has the amount changed for 2021?

No. Although historically it has increased by the same amount as the CPI, the proposed charge will remain the same with no increase for 2021.

What is it?

The charge is intended to cover the cost of those essential items and services used or consumed by individual students during the course of their study.

What do our charges cover?

The Notice of Materials and Services Charge was calculated using historical trends in curriculum expenses. The notice details the contribution for access and use of specific curriculum components for each charge.

The Notice of Material and Services is watermarked, does this mean the charge has been approved?

The Notice was calculated and sent to the Department for Education Chief Executive (or delegate) for verification that the notice does not include charges that are met by government funding. Once verified, the notice is watermarked. The Governing Council will be asked to approve the charge at the next meeting.

Are subject charges included in the Charge?

Subject charges for semester 1 and 2 are listed separately and included.

What has changed this year?

In 2021 the charge for Year 10 students will not include the component for technology devices. This will be invoiced separately with a 'commitment to pay': more information will be forwarded regarding this.

POLLING

The Governing Council will be asked for approval to conduct a poll for each Materials and Services Charge approved. A successful poll will allow the school to legally recover charges set above the 'Prescribed Sum'.

What is the Prescribed Sum?

The prescribed sum determined for 2021 by the Department for Education is \$325 for secondary students for the full school year. Whilst our charges are higher, we would be unable to legally recover (through debt collection) the full amount without first conducting a successful poll.

How is the poll conducted?

Parents will be sent a letter outlining the purpose of the poll and a voting slip to indicate a Yes or No vote. A separate poll is required for each separate charge. For example, approved charges for Year 8 and 9 are \$753.00 plus subject charges, Year 10 is \$581.00 plus subject charges, and Years 11 and 12 are \$1050.00 plus subject charges. In this circumstance the school would need to conduct three independent polls. If a parent has 1 child in Year 9 and 2 in Year 11, they will have three votes.

What is a successful poll?

A simple majority of 51%, based on the number of respondents for each individual poll. For example, if 20 responses are received for the Year 9 poll and 11 vote yes, this meets the criteria of a successful poll.

Why do we need to poll?

It is recognised that the actual cost of some items and services may result in a site calculating its Materials and Services Charge as being higher than the prescribed sum. The charges are a vital contribution to the curriculum budget set each year.