



11 October 2024

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Notice of Meeting – 2025 Materials and Services Charge

The Education and Children's Services Act 2019 enables schools, in consultation with the school community, to continue to set, collect and recover a Materials and Services Charge. Linked to this notice of meeting is the written verification from the Chief Executive in the form of a 'Watermarked Notice'.

The Governing Council will be holding a meeting on **Monday 28 October 2024 at 6:30pm** in the Senior Study Centre to discuss and approve the Materials and Services Charge for 2025. This is an open meeting to all persons who are responsible for the charge, however voting is restricted to elected members only.

MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGES 2025

Has the amount changed for 2025?

No. Despite the CPI increase of 3.8% over 12 months to June and the Department's increase of \$17 to the prescribed sum, the school recognises the cost of living pressure to families and the importance of not causing additional financial strain on our community. For this reason, we have not increased the Materials and Services Charge for 2025.

What do our charges cover?

The charge covers the cost of essential items and services used or consumed by individual students during the course of their study such as textbooks, photocopied material, stationery, access to machinery and equipment, access to information technology and subject resources.

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

The charges were calculated and a Notice 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 charges at the next meeting.



Are subject charges included in the Charge?

37 subject charges for Semester 1 and 2 are listed separately and included.

What has changed this year?

Nothing has changed. The charges have been held at 2024 levels and will continue to be invoiced and collected in the same manner.

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 2025 by the Department for Education is \$396 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 an email outlining the purpose of the poll and a link to an online voting platform. A separate poll is required for each separate charge. For example, proposed charges for Years 7, 8 and 9 are \$918.00 plus one subject charge, and Years 10, 11 and 12 is \$846.00 plus subject charges. In this circumstance the school would need to conduct 2 independent polls. If a parent has 1 child in Year 8 and 1 in Year 11, they will have 2 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.



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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.

Year 7, 8 and 9

Year 10

Year 10 Subject Levies

Year 11

Year 11 Subject Levies

Year 12

Year 12 Subject Levies

To register your attendance email Nicole Rubino, Executive Assistant - nicole.rubino562@schools.sa.edu.au by Thursday 24 October, including your name and name of your child/ren.

In lieu of attendance at the Governing Council meeting parents can express their views in writing via email to the Chairperson of the Governing Council, Alexis Watt, Brighton Secondary School at dl.0803.admin@schools.sa.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Alexis Watt
Chairperson, Governing Council

Tony Lunniss
Principal