

BRENTWOOD PARK HARDSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Hardship arrangements which include proactive approaches to providing support for parents experiencing financial difficulty are as follows:

Brentwood Park:

SPECIAL PROVISION OF FOOD:

Has developed links with organizations in the local area so that support and assistance can be provided for students and families in financial crisis, such as

- Berwick Church of Christ Food Pantry
- Family Food Support, Narre Warren Christian church, Webb Street, Narre Warren

CONNECTIONS TO AGENCIES:

Utilises local agencies, such as

- WAYS to assist with housing
- Winderemere 9704 9811
- Connections 5990 8400
- chips (christians helping in primary schools) 9702 5588
- Community Centres: Timbarra 8768 5100, Casey 9704 9811
- Casey Cardinia Community Health Centre 8768 5147(financial counselling)
- Casey Cardinia Legal Service 9793 1993

UNIFORMS:

- Has a low-cost uniform.
- Has a policy regarding maintaining a low-cost uniform.
- Has a second-hand uniform supply available for all parents.
- Ensures that as many uniform items as possible, such as socks, track pants, shorts, shoes etc., can be sourced at low-cost clothing stores.
- Will provide uniform at no cost, when necessary, via a dignified and discreet process.
- Utilises an agency for access to uniform items , such as State School Relief for uniform items 9575 7903

ACCESSING ELIGIBLE SERVICES:

- Makes every effort to ensure that low-income families are aware of their education-related social security and government concession entitlements. This includes: regular reminders about updates and changes in the school newsletter, reminders to parents and display of appropriate information in school foyer. CSEF-Camps, Sports, Excursion Fund which is available to parents who have a Centrelink Pensioner Concession, Health Care Card or is a foster parent or Veteran Affairs pensioner.

PARENT PAYMENTS:

- Has clear and fair arrangements for people to make ‘parent payments’ by instalments, on a basis which conforms to their capacity to pay. A written agreement is formalised.
- Ensures that students are not penalized or humiliated by their family’s non-payment of school payments.

BOOKLISTS:

- Booklists and other equipment requirements are monitored to ensure that unnecessary items are not added as “compulsory”.
- Ensures that printing for educational materials is available at the school without cost for students, when necessary.

EXCURSIONS:

- Monitors excursion costs to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum at each year level.
- Makes dignified and discreet provision for families who cannot afford excursions for students to participate at no cost.
- Ensures that students who are from families experiencing hardship are followed up discreetly to attend.
- Facilitates a Year 5/6 Mini-fete to subsidise Year Six Graduation

HOMEWORK:

- Students who do not have computer access at home can use the computers in the classroom or in the computer lab (also available at recess and at lunchtimes).