BRENTWOOD PARK HARDSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

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

Brentwood Park Primary School 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:

The school utilises local agencies, such as.

- Wayss to assist with housing 1800 512 402 1800 627 727 (after hours)
- Orange Door 1800 271 170 1800 015 188 (after hours)
- Windermere 1300 946 337
- Connections 5990 8400
- CHIPS (Christians Helping in Primary Schools) 9702 5528

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

ACESSING 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.

- 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 access to a digital device at home can use the iPads in the classroom.