

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES EXPLAINED

The Legal Position

The State Government through the Department of Education provides placement at educational facilities for all students who choose to attend Government colleges. The Department also pays for the wages of all teaching and non-teaching positions plus costs such as repairs, maintenance and utilities. Government does not provide for many goods and services which students use and it is reasonable for parents to meet these costs.

How much can be charged?

The maximum voluntary contributions a college may charge is currently fixed at \$235 for year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students, however additional compulsory charges above that figure can be requested for consumables, additional resources and extra high cost options such as additional costs for subjects. For Years 11 and 12 there are no maximum charges set by the State Government. Colleges endeavour to set their own charges for these years and such charges are compulsory. The college can also request a 50% confirmation charge for these years.

Who should pay?

Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges. Parents of students who choose the more expensive option subjects need to consider the costs during the subject selection process. This college is committed to an even-handed and responsible approach so that all parents should make contributions towards their children's education.

A Compassionate View

This college is only too aware that the payment of college contributions and charges can be a burden for some families. Part payments and credit card debits are all available to support parents experiencing difficulties. However, we do need to talk to you about this. Ignoring accounts and reminders is unhelpful to all parties. The college is also keen to assist parents in selecting options that they can afford. To this end subject charges will always be provided to parents prior to selection of subjects.

Voluntary Contributions (7 – 10)

Under government guidelines the College is requesting a voluntary contribution of up to \$235.00 for each student. These contributions are used to provide resources for the compulsory learning areas: Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Technologies, the Arts, Health & Physical Education and Languages. Contributions also allow the college to provide such items as library books, information resources, computers, some Student Support programs and the use of the school bus for excursions. The payment of voluntary contributions will make a significant contribution to the quality of educational programs delivered. There is an expectation that families who can afford to pay the Voluntary Contributions do so.

Compulsory Charges (7 – 12)

Compulsory Charges relate to the elective subjects that students choose to take for the year. Please note that specialist courses such as Netball, Rugby and Music will incur compulsory charges from year 7. These compulsory charges cover the items that students use over and above what is supplied by the Department of Education. Parents are provided estimated costs for these elective subjects during the subject selection process. Please note that there are low cost subject options available. The Atwell College Board has approved the services of a debt collection agency for unpaid compulsory charges.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

Rugby and Netball are offered as a College Specialist Program and will incur additional charges above the voluntary contribution.

Charges for Special Programs are required to be paid at the start of the college year.

50% of charges are required to be paid by the start of the College year (26 January 2021) with the balance to be paid by 1 April 2021. Payment options may also be considered. Contact the Finance department on (08) 6174 2209 for further information.

Charges will depend upon the course chosen. Some specific courses will incur higher costs dependent upon such items as text, subject specific resources, materials, excursions, Certificates and work placement. Students involved in work placement must pay the associated fees prior to commencement of the work placement. **Students offered selected off site programs which are delivered by external providers such as Certificates will be charged by the external provider.**

Specialist Program Uniforms will need to be purchased through the College supplier, Fair Game Sports. Please use the order form link below. Payment can be made direct to Fair Game Sports via direct debit or credit card. **Please note the college cannot accept uniform payments.** To ensure items are available for the beginning of each term, orders need to be placed by the following dates:

- Term 1 2021 - Friday 11 December 2020
- Term 2 2021 - Friday 19 March 2021
- Term 3 2021 - Friday 18 June 2021
- Term 4 2021 - Friday 10 September 2021

Orders placed after these dates will be captured in the next subsequent order date.

[2021 NSP Uniform Order Form](#)

[2021 RLSP Uniform Order Form](#)

Reminder: All subject charges for students in Year 11 & 12 are compulsory.

Collecting Charges and Voluntary Contributions

The college will take a positive approach to collecting voluntary contributions from parents/caregivers of students in years 7 to 10. In particular, the college will highlight the benefits to students if all parents meet their voluntary contributions. With respect to compulsory charges for years 7 to 12, the college will actively seek full payment of compulsory charges when appropriate. The College Board, in support of this process, has endorsed the following actions:

- In 2021 three statements will be posted up until Friday 2 July 2021.
- **Compulsory charges unpaid as at the 2 July 2021 could be referred to a debt collection agency unless prior arrangements have been made with the college**
- Outstanding charges are rolled over to the student's record in the following year where applicable.
- Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 high cost subjects require a 50% confirmation charge prior to enrolment.
- Where parents with outstanding Compulsory Charges have failed to arrange and commit to a payment plan, the student may be removed from their chosen Elective courses and be placed in a course that satisfies the requirements of the Curriculum Framework. Or, in the case where the unpaid Compulsory Charges cover the cost of materials for practical classes, the student will not be able to participate in the practical lessons and will have to complete theory work.

The following information is provided in the hope of making the college charges and contributions structure clear for parents and caregivers. Atwell College has directed its efforts towards keeping costs as low and as equitable as possible. The Atwell College - College Board has examined the contributions and charges structure in detail and has approved the amounts shown in accordance with the Education Act.

VOLUNTARY APPROVED REQUESTS

Information Technology Fund

This cost is used towards the resourcing and updating of library and IT materials for all students. It is a valuable resource in assisting your child with their educational programs and having access to the most up to date and modern technology. The Department of Education provides limited funding to provide resources for this centre.

College Chaplain

An individual levy has been requested to support the presence of a Non-Denominational chaplain. The Chaplain provides a valuable service to the students and their families by encouraging, motivating and

inspiring young people to be the best they can be and help them through life issues that may threaten their potential. This position is solely funded by the community and your donations.

Parents and Citizens (P&C) Contribution

The P&C is comprised of voluntary members who make a vital contribution to the school. This contribution enables the P&C to purchase much needed equipment for student's use. The P&C also support in fundraising for school tours and Positive Learning Environment (PLE) events.

Bus Fund

An individual levy has been requested to support the College in the purchasing and running of the College bus which is used for various excursions throughout the year

OTHER OPTIONAL COST

School Yearbook

School Yearbook is a photo book published annually to record, highlight, and commemorate the past year at school. If the Year Book is not required, please advise the school and it can be removed from the student account.

Student ID Card/Smart Rider Cards

Every student receives a Student ID card when they start at Atwell College, this card can also be used as a Smart Rider card to use for travel on public transport in WA. Students require this card for their personal photocopying and printing at the college. Students can purchase photocopying credit from the Finance Office. (Note: Any remaining balance when the student leaves the school cannot be refunded.) The card is also required when borrowing books from the college library and to access the services of our IT technician. The IT technician cannot assist students with IT problems unless they produce their card for identification. Lost or damaged cards can be replaced at a cost of \$5.00 by applying at the College Library.

Reprinting of Student Timetables

Student timetables are printed and distributed to students at the beginning of each term. For those requiring copies of these items outside these printing times, the following replacement fee of \$1.00 will be applied.

Photocopying/Printing

The College has available photocopiers/printers for student use. These items are accessible to students with their Atwell College Student ID cards. Students can apply credit for printing to their ID cards by submitting payment to the accounts department in the supplied yellow school payment envelopes.

OTHER INFORMATION

Personal Items List

Books and stationery items may be purchased from Champion Education our preferred supplier, or parents have the option of shopping around. Please visit the College website for more information regarding book list items for your child.

Please check your Contributions & Charges invoice to confirm subjects prior to purchasing books.

Insurance

The College takes no responsibility for the theft, damage or loss of any personal items. There is no department policy to cover theft of computers, mobile phones, bikes etc. Students are also not covered for any personal injury while at school. In the case of emergencies, where it is necessary to transport the student via ambulance to a health provider, the cost is also not covered. Student's health insurance will need to be covered by either Medicare or parent's private health insurance.

Excursions

Throughout the year all students will be given the opportunity to participate in incursions and/or excursions. These events usually attract a charge and are pre-booked by the school. If the child is not able to attend the event, unfortunately, we may not be able to refund the cost of the excursion.

Information regarding the costs of expected excursions can be found in the Contributions & Charges on the College website. The costs of each activity will not exceed the amount listed. However, there may be additional excursions that have no cost to the parents or carers. There may also be extra activities undertaken by your child that may not be listed below but may incur extra costs.

As required by the Department of Education, we are informing parents and carers of the planned excursions, incursions, camps and competitions that may take place in 2021. The costs of each activity is an estimate only. There may be additional excursions that have no cost to the parents or carers. There may also be extra activities undertaken by your child that may not be listed below but may incur extra costs. The additional costs per student will not exceed \$300.00

You will be contacted with the details closer to the activity date – Do not pay for these activities until advised.

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Western Australian Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families with secondary schooling costs. Application is made by the parent or caregiver for student/s enrolled in Years 7-12 at a secondary school. Holders of a Centrelink Family Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran's Affairs Pensioner Concession Card are able to apply for financial assistance through **the Secondary Assistance Scheme which is a total of \$350 per eligible student.**

An application form will be sent to you with your Contributions & Charges Sheet and a copy is also available to download from the College website. Please bring your concession card and completed form to the College Administration building to be signed by a school officer. **Concession Cards must be sighted and witnessed by school staff.** Application forms are also available from Administration.

YOU MUST RE-APPLY FOR THE ASSISTANCE EACH YEAR

Applications for Secondary Assistance Scheme close on 1 April 2021

