



DANDENONG RANGES STEINER SCHOOL

# 2021 Fee Policy

Date of Issue: November 2020



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## **Guiding Principles:**

*Dandenong Ranges Steiner School is a fee paying school*

*We plan for a sustainable future and provide high quality teaching and learning experiences that lead to long-term educational outcomes.*

*Values of respect, equity, compassion and community guide this policy.*

*Parents / guardians are expected to honour their financial obligations.*

*We emphasise building relationships with parents to ensure fees are paid in full on time.*

*We provide varied payment options to assist parents to meet their financial obligations.*

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Cover picture: Class 6 student drawing

This policy applies to Australian citizens, permanent residents and certain visa holders only. Additional conditions apply for overseas students. The Policy is regularly reviewed and Tuition Fees are subject to change on an annual basis.

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## 1. School Tuition Fees 2021

School Fees are vital to the functioning of our school. The School has kept tuition fees to a minimum in order to remain accessible to all families. This requires that the School community as a whole supports school activities. Commitment of time is required by all families at the Spring Fair and other events organised by the school.

	Annual Fees	Paid Up front 5% discount	Quarterly Payments	52 Weekly Instalments	Information
Playgroup – One Child	\$670.00	\$636.50	\$167.50		Averages at \$17.60 per 2 hour session (incl. materials & food costs)
Playgroup - Family	\$1,010.00	\$959.50	\$252.50		The Family rate applies to more than one child over 12 months old from the same family.
Forest Playgroup	\$830.00	\$788.50	\$207.50		Averages at \$21.50 per 2.5 hour session (incl. materials & food costs)
Forest Playgroup - Family	\$1,245.00	\$1,182.75	\$311.25		The Family rate applies to more than one child from the same family attending Forest Playgroup.
Little Kinder	\$2,120.00	\$2,014.00	\$530.00	\$40.76	(inclusive of materials, food costs and excursion)
Big Kinder	\$4,245.00	\$4,032.75	\$1,061.25.	\$81.63	
Prep	\$4,585.00	\$4,355.75	\$1,146.25.	\$88.17	
Class 1 & 2	\$4,800.00	\$4,560.00	\$1,200.00	\$92.30	
Class 3 - 6	\$6,530.00	\$6,203.50	\$1,632.50.	\$125.57	Includes Individual Music lessons (8 sessions per term)

Additional Sundry Charges Include: excursions, incursions, swim program, camps and Sundry Materials. (Sundry materials include recorders, music books and other items that are student property).

Music Charges: Individual Music Lessons are included in fees for Classes 3 to 6 (8 sessions per term). Parents pay the costs of musical instruments.

Extra Lesson Support is charged at \$41/ session (except to the extent the child attracts funding).

Community Involvement Program (CIP) Levy of \$80 per term per family. (Refer section 13).

## Concession Fees

Holders of a valid Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Visa 785, Visa 786, or Department of Veteran Affairs Gold Card are eligible for a 7% discount on school tuition fees and the DHS Fee Subsidy in the Funded Kindergarten Year of approximately \$1600.

To be eligible for the concession you must present a valid health care card at the start of the year. If you become eligible for one of these cards during the year before June 30 you can claim a pro rata concession.

### Concession Card holder rates are:

	Annual Fees	Paid Up front 5% discount	Quarterly Payments	52 Weekly Instalments	Information
<b>Little Kinder</b>	\$1,980.00	\$1,881.00	\$495.00	\$38.07	(inclusive of materials, food costs and excursion)
<b>Big Kinder*</b>	\$2,645.00	\$2,512.75	\$661.25	\$50.86	
<b>Prep</b>	\$4,275.00	\$4,061.25	\$1,068.75	\$82.21	
<b>Class 1 &amp; 2</b>	\$4,480.00	\$4,256.00	\$1,120.00	\$86.15	
<b>Class 3 - 6</b>	\$6,090.00	\$5,785.50	\$1,522.50	\$117.11	Includes Individual Music lessons (8 sessions per term)

\*This amount is estimated will be confirmed when 2021 Kindergarten Fee Subsidies are advised. It could be slightly more or less.

## 2. Sibling Discount

For families with more than one child at the School (Prep to Class 6), or Little Yarra Steiner School or Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School (Class 7 to 12), we offer the following sibling discounts:

- 10% on tuition fees for the second sibling concurrently attending (Prep to Class 6).
- 30% on tuition fees for the third sibling concurrently attending (Prep to Class 6).

- 50% on tuition fees for the fourth or more siblings concurrently attending (Prep to Class 6).

**Note** This discount does not apply to Playgroup, Forest Playgroup, Little Kinder or Big Kinder fees.

### 3. Terms of Payment

Dandenong Ranges Steiner School offers multiple options for the payment of fees.

You can choose from the following payment options:

- **Annual** – Full advance payment by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in January. **(5% Discount applies)**
- **Quarterly** – 4 instalments payable 15<sup>th</sup> January, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- **Monthly** – 12 instalments 15<sup>th</sup> of the month from December to November
- **Fortnightly** – 26 instalments commencing 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- **Weekly** – 52 instalments commencing 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**All fees must be finalised by November 2021.**

#### Payment Methods:

**Direct Debit:** For Quarterly, Monthly, fortnightly and weekly payments, unless by prior arrangement with the Business Manager. Direct debits can be made from your savings account or credit card.

**Direct transfer:** Available for **Annual** payments. Payments can be made by electronic transfer **BSB 063 503 Account 10197443** Reference [your child's surname]

**Credit Card:** For **Annual payments** only. You can call our office (8:30 - 4:30) and pay over the phone using a credit card, (03) 8790 4797

### 4. Enrolment Application Fee

An enrolment application fee of \$100 is payable with your Enrolment Application form for Kindergarten and School applications. There is a \$50 enrolment application fee for Playgroup, which will be applied as a credit to the first term's fees. The enrolment application fee is an administration fee and is not refundable.

### 5. Refundable Bond

Upon accepting an offer of a place, a Bond of \$500 is payable for families enrolling in Kindergarten or School. This bond is held in a designated Bond Account by the school for

the duration of your child's enrolment. The bond is refundable within 30 days when your child leaves the school, providing there are no outstanding fees.

## 6. Overseas Students and Unfunded Kindergarten Children

An additional tuition fee will be charged to families of overseas students without an eligible visa and children attending a second unfunded year of kindergarten as the school is not eligible to receive any government funding for these children. Please contact Business Manager, Cath Lanigan, [business.manager@drss.vic.edu.au](mailto:business.manager@drss.vic.edu.au) or 8790 4797 for information on the applicable fees.

## 7. Bursary Scheme

Partial Fee Assistance **may be available** to families who are experiencing financial hardship.

Financial assistance is dependent on available DRSS Bursary Funds.

If you wish to apply for a bursary please put your request in writing to Business Manager, Cath Lanigan, [business.manager@drss.vic.edu.au](mailto:business.manager@drss.vic.edu.au) who will organise a time to meet with you. Bursaries for 2021 are to be submitted by Friday 26 February 2021. Term 1 fees are due and payable as normal. Applications can also be submitted during the year if financial circumstances change.

Those families with outstanding fees from previous years may not be eligible to apply for Financial Assistance.

## 8. Scholarship Program

Our Scholarships program offers a limited number of subsidised places to eligible applicants, who would otherwise not have the opportunity to enrol in the school, due to financial disadvantage. Applications can be made via our website at <https://www.drss.vic.edu.au/enrolments/scholarship-program/>. This program is also open to Kindergarten families who may not be able to afford for their children to continue on to the primary school.

## 9. Withdrawal of a Student

A full term's notice in writing must be given to the Enrolment Officer when withdrawing your child/children from the School (including Kindergarten). If the required notice is not provided, one full term fees (i.e. One quarter of the annual fee) will be charged. "One full term" means a complete school calendar term.

## **10. Temporary Absence**

For absences of a student for any number of weeks during a term, the full Invoice amount per term will be charged.

## **11. Community Involvement Program (CIP)**

The Community Involvement Program (CIP) provides parents with many ways to contribute their energy and service to the school.

The CIP allocates 16 hours of involvement per year to each family with children in Class 1 to Class 6. Families have the option to pay a levy in lieu of volunteering at numerous tasks and events. A CIP levy of \$80 per term per family is charged to school accounts. When voluntary work is completed and registered using the CIP service record form, families will receive a credit to their account at the rate of \$20 per hour (ie.4 hours per term gives you your full credit). You must note your work on a CIP service record form to be submitted before the end of each term (Term 1 to 3) and by 20<sup>th</sup> November in Term 4. The CIP levy will be calculated during the year and any amounts owing will be invoiced to families in Term 1 of the following year or on the final invoice in the case of families leaving the school.

Credits may be accumulated during the calendar year and you don't have to do the full 4 hours each term for the accumulation to occur. Some families make their entire contribution for the year in a single term by contributing time to Spring Fair preparations for example. Credits are not carried over from one year to the next.

Some of the tasks that attract full CIP credits are serving on a regular committee or subgroup. Other tasks that may gain CIP credits on an hourly basis include service at working bees, service at spring fair or events, library support, helping with repairs and maintenance and assisting in the Biodynamic garden. Note this is not the full extent of activities that will attract CIP credits. If you have a query about the eligibility of a certain task contact the office.

Note: the levy will not be charged for terms where it is not possible for parents to attend school on-site, as in 2020.

## 12. Allowances and Credits

<p><b>CIP Credit</b></p>	<p>Families are eligible for a Community Involvement Program (CIP) Credit for recognised family contributions to the school, maximum credit of <b>\$320 per year</b>. Please ensure you submit a CIP service record form to receive this credit.</p>
<p><b>CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund) Credit</b></p>	<p>Holders of Pensioner or Health Care Cards are eligible for CSEF. \$125 per child per year is credited to your account and used to cover the costs of camps and excursions. Please ensure that you complete a CSEF form to obtain the maximum credit against your account. This is required to be completed by June 30 each year.</p> <p>CSEF is available for Primary Students whose parent holds a valid Health Care Card and meet eligible criteria. Unused credits are rolled over to following years</p> <p>See:<a href="https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef">https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef</a></p>
<p><b>Conveyance Allowance Credit</b></p>	<p>Families living more than 4.8km from the school are eligible to apply for Conveyance Allowance and will receive a credit against their account. Conveyance Allowances credits are processed quarterly.</p> <p>This is paid in 4 instalments, at the end of each term. For more information including payment rates per km please visit <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/safety/Conveyance%20Allowance%20Policy.docx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/safety/Conveyance%20Allowance%20Policy.docx</a></p>

## 13. Overdue Invoice or Account

Dandenong Ranges Steiner School is a fee paying school and **requires accounts to be paid by the set due dates** to adequately function and meet our obligations. If you are experiencing difficulties in relation to payment of fees or charges, please contact the Business Manager, Cath Lanigan, or the Finance Officer, Belinda Mackley, **prior to the due date**.

Accounts not paid in full by the Due Payment Date are classified as Overdue. An overdue account will incur an initial **default charge of \$25 per account per term**, known as a Late Payment Fee.



In the event of any invoices or accounts reaching the 30 Days overdue stage, a monthly **Late Payment Interest Charge of 1% per month** may be charged on all overdue amounts, which will be added to the account each term. This is a genuine estimate of financial cost to the school as a result of non-observance of this fee policy, based upon the resultant bank charges as well as the additional administrative work required in recovering the debt.

Families experiencing difficulty in meeting invoice payment deadlines should be proactive in contacting the Business Manager, Cath Lanigan ([business.manager@drss.vic.edu.au](mailto:business.manager@drss.vic.edu.au)) as soon as you become aware that you may not meet your obligations by the due dates, to make a special arrangement. DRSS prefer to enter into a formal agreed special payment arrangement than implement legal debt collection proceedings.

Any legal or collection costs incurred for overdue accounts will be added to the account.

## **14. Debt Recovery Procedures**

The School remains committed to building relationships with families and finding ways through difficult circumstances. Please contact the Business Manager, Cath Lanigan, **prior to the due date** if you need to discuss your individual circumstances or establish an alternative payment arrangement.

The Business Manager is authorised by the DRSS School Board to take action to recover outstanding fees.

Signatories to the enrolment forms are jointly and separately responsible for ongoing obligations, financial and otherwise. Debt recovery procedures will be conducted by the Business Manager or delegate in a sensitive, discreet and confidential manner.

For those who fail to keep up with their commitments, the matter will be brought to your attention promptly and responses sought. Where fees are in arrears, the full balance becomes due and payable.

**Legal proceedings** may be implemented if steps taken by DRSS to recover outstanding debt are unsuccessful. Any legal or collection costs incurred for overdue accounts will be added to the account.

## **15. Enquiries**

Any concerns or queries about payment of fees and charges may be discussed in confidence with the Finance Officer, Belinda Mackley, or the Business Manager, Cath Lanigan.

Account queries may also be directed to [accounts@drss.vic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@drss.vic.edu.au) or phone (03) 8790 4797.