

School Levies and Book sales – Letter to Parents

School Levies

School levies form an essential part of our school income.

Levies payable each year are determined by school representatives in consultation with the School Association, and reflect the Department's School Levy Policy and local circumstances. They help fund such items as student stationery, excursion costs and our Aquatics Program.

Since 2007 Exeter High School has charged one consolidated (Composite) levy for each student. Since levies and funding form one combined revenue source for the school, refunds are not normally provided should a student not attend a particular course or activity.

All parents or guardians, other than those approved under the Student Assistance Scheme (STAS), are expected to contribute towards the cost of their child's education through levies. STAS application forms are available for new applicants, but it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that these are completed and forwarded when due. Levies will be payable if STAS approval has not been confirmed by our scheduled book sales days. If STAS approval is received later levy payments can be refunded.

The Exeter High School Association has approved the levies for the 2019 school year. The Composite Levies for the various grades for 2019 are as follows:-

- **Students in grade 7 & 8** **\$490.00**
- **Students in grade 9 & 10** **\$505.00**

Other Charges

The school may make other charges for all students, including students eligible for student assistance. These cover "optional items" such as the school magazine, registration fees for Northern High Schools Sports Association (NHSSA) participation, Leavers' activities and dinner, extra music tuition, contribution to the Parents & Friends Association and other items outside of the standard educational programs. These items and charges are optional.

Financial and Other Assistance

Parent and guardians should be aware that there is a range of assistance available to them such as STAS, Abstudy, ASSPA, Spectacle Assistance Scheme, Bursaries and transport concessions. For more information, contact the school office.

Uniforms & Uniform Shop

School levies do not cover uniforms. All students are expected to wear the school uniform. Uniform items, School Jackets, sports shirts and shorts for the start of the 2019 school year will be available from the School Uniform Shop on the following days:-

Book Sales Days

- Wednesday 30th January, 2019 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. & 5.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.
- Thursday 31st January 2019 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. & 5.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

**** During school terms the Uniform Shop is only open on Thursday mornings from 8.45 am to 10.00am.**

Stationery

A pack of essential stationery is given to each student at the beginning of the year at the 2019 Book / Uniform Sales (see dates & times above). There is no extra levy or charge to parents for this as stationery packs are included in the Composite Levy and are purchased by the school on behalf of students from the whole school revenue.. For Grade 7 students some items will be issued to students in class on the first day, such as a scientific calculator, school diary etc. It is expected that these items will be retained by students for use over their future years at the school. If lost or damaged students are expected to replace them at their own

expense. Additional stationery / equipment items specific to certain courses will be handed out in class at the commencement of Term 1. Other optional stationery, such as a scientific calculator for Grades 8, 9 & 10, can be purchased from the school office at book sales time if required.

Excursions

There are no extra levies or charges for excursions unless they are optional. For example an optional activity would be a grade 10 Trip which students can choose to attend, and for which they will be charged separately, whether eligible for student assistance or not.

Home Economics, Materials Design and Technology, and Outdoor Education

Funding for these and other subjects now comes from the whole school revenue. This is fair and reasonable and is in line with the Department's School Levy Policy, and means that students are not discouraged from choosing particular subjects because of the cost. However if a student chooses to make an item other than the usual ones or use a different material they may be charged for any additional cost involved.

Payment of Accounts

A letter is sent home for all enrolled students towards the end of Term 4 detailing the expected levies and other charges for the next year. Parents are requested to pay levies, enter into payment arrangements or prove eligibility for exemption at the book sales days.

Our School Levy Policy requires all levies to be paid in full by 30th June 2019 unless a deferred payment agreement or periodic payment agreement has been made with the School Business Manager.

Payments may be made:

- by cash, cheque or credit card at the advertised book sales days or afterwards at the school office between 8:45 am and 3.00 pm daily;
- by cheque, payable to Exeter High School, posted to Glen Ard Mohr Road, Exeter Tas. 7275;
- by credit card, with details telephoned to the School Administration Office on 6394 4366.
- Bpay or BPOINT– *Note: you will need your levies invoice to get the correct reference number for the payment.*
- Service Tasmania – You will need your levies invoice to do this.

Consideration will be given to parents with genuine financial difficulties. However you are expected to meet your agreed commitments as a matter of justice to other parents and students. If you have genuine difficulties in paying the levies, please contact the School Office and an appointment will be made for you to discuss your levies and negotiate payment options. Confidential documentation will be kept on any agreement made.

Once arrangements are finalised, parents are requested to honour the commitment and meet the payments on the due dates. You will be provided with a statement on a regular basis detailing payments you have made and any debts still owed.

Reimbursement of levies

As levies form part of the consolidated revenue of the school, and their allocation and expenditure is often committed early in the school year, it is the policy of this school that Levies or Other Charges will not be refunded. However, individual circumstances may be considered on their merits, and refunds may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Students enrolled during the school year

Parents/guardians or independent students will not be required to pay levies (either in part or in full) should they enrol in a school part-way through a year provided they have already paid levies in full to a previous Tasmanian State School for that same school year. If an agreement to pay by instalment has been entered into, parents/guardians are expected to renegotiate an agreement to pay the balance owing to the previous school, with the new school.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Invoices:** You should receive an invoice for your child's 2019 Levies in the mail shortly before the booksales days. **Please bring this invoice with you** when collecting your child's backpack to speed up payment processing.
- **P&F Donation** The School Association are asking all families for a donation of \$20 which is used by them in support of their fundraising activities. Donations can be made at the booksales days.