



GERALDTON
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Years 7 - 10

Contributions and Associated Costs 2021



2021 Voluntary Contributions

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope to improve awareness of the school voluntary contributions and associated costs structure by including relevant information on the following pages.

Geraldton Senior High School is committed to keeping costs to a minimum whilst maintaining an interesting and engaging curriculum that provides equitable access for all students. All costs outlined in this booklet are approved by the school's Finance Committee and Board in accordance with the School Education Act 1999. The booklet also outlines the assistance that is available to parents/carers and the eligibility requirements that enable you to access this assistance.

Parents/carers will receive a statement of contributions for each child enrolled at Geraldton Senior High School. Schools rely heavily on those meeting their commitment in respect to these contributions. Our capacity to continue to provide students with the consumables they need that enable us to present a quality curriculum is directly affected by your commitment to meeting these payments. Some optional activities may have a charge attached based on the cost of participation.

Those who are unable to meet the commitment of paying the voluntary contributions by the end of Term 1 2021 are encouraged to contact the Finance Officer on 9965 8407 to enter into an agreed payment plan.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the education of your child at Geraldton Senior High School.

Greg Kelly
Principal

How paying Voluntary Contributions affects the School

Financial support provided by parents/carers has always played a significant role in enhancing a schools' capacity to add value to students' learning experience. The continuing partnership between schools and parents/carers is vital in ensuring that all students receive a level of education that meets the requirements of the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline.

Voluntary contributions are at a set rate in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 of \$235 per student. These funds go towards funding educational activities in the classroom. This may include sporting equipment for Physical Education, resources to conduct experiments in Science, class sets of text books in English and Maths, local excursions by a bus owned by the school in Humanities and Social Sciences and resources to create engaged learning in a variety of option courses offered.

Voluntary requests are optional payments to contribute to specific funds and projects at the school including bus supplement, technology, chaplaincy program, library and Parents & Citizens Association.

For families with children in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10, we ask that contributions are paid in full by 1 April 2021 or alternatively enter into an agreed payment plan with the school. This enables staff to use the funds for your child throughout the year.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Parents/carers who are experiencing financial difficulty may elect to pay the balance in instalments. Please contact our Finance Officer on 9965 8407 to discuss payment options. To check if you are eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme, please refer to page 4 of this booklet. You may be eligible for other payments such as ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance which is available through Centrelink.

Paying parents/carers expect NOT to subsidise non-paying parents/carers. The school will actively pursue the collection of voluntary contributions; this is strongly supported by the School Board.

TAX INVOICE AND STATEMENT SUMMARY

You will receive a statement that reflects the costs associated with your child's proposed learning program.

VOLUNTARY REQUESTS

Set out below is an explanation of the voluntary requests which appear on your child's statement of charges.

Technology - \$25.00	All students use computers, printers, scanners, digital cameras and the internet as tools to assist their learning across the curriculum. The school also purchases a wide range of software packages to meet the individual learning needs and interest of our students. The contribution assists with ongoing costs associated with this technology.
Bus Supplement - \$15.00	The school has three buses which are used to transport students to school excursions, camps and sporting events. Contributions received go towards the annual maintenance and running costs. This significantly reduces costs as hire buses are not usually required.
P&C Contributions - \$10.00	The P&C Parent Contributions was set up to avoid the need for all families to participate in fundraising activities. Funds raised for the P&C are spent directly on projects stakeholders feel are important and for the benefit of your children.
Chaplaincy Program - \$10.00	Students and families may be met with unexpected life challenges and situations. Our Chaplaincy Program enables the school to employ qualified staff to be available to both families and students to listen and guide, for mediation and referral to external agencies (where required).
Library - \$10.00	The school continues to replace resources in the library which support the learning of all students.

Accepted Methods of Payment

Payments can be made at schools' administration between 8.00am and 4.00pm during school terms excluding public holidays by:

- ✓ Cash
 - ✓ Cheque
 - ✓ EFTPOS
 - ✓ Credit Card – in person, by phone or by payment plan authority
 - ✓ Direct Deposit
- Account Name: Geraldton Senior High School
BSB No: 633 000
Account No: 165 575 135
Reference: Student's full name or Student ID number

2021 Secondary Assistance Scheme

Applications close **Thursday 1 April 2021**

Do you hold a Centrelink concession/health care card?

Financial assistance is available for holders of the following cards:

- Centrelink Health Care Card (**MUST** state student's name)
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Card

The allowance consists of two components:

- \$235 Educational Program Allowance paid directly to the school
- \$115 Clothing Allowance paid directly to parent/carers or paid to the school

Please apply in person at the school's administration where you must present your card to be able to complete your application – this is a mandatory requirement.

Please Note: Health Care & Pension cards must be current at the time of application.

- Applications commencing Monday **1 February 2021**
- Applications closing Thursday **1 April 2021**

Parents/carers who have already claimed Aboriginal Grants (Abstudy) are not entitled to claim the Secondary Assistance Scheme as above. However, if parents/carers have claimed Abstudy from Centrelink, an additional \$79 Education Allowance can be claimed under the Secondary Assistance Scheme.

Schedule of Contributions

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Additional charges for optional extra activities which address broad learning outcomes may be offered to students (e.g. social events, excursions, camps and competition entry fees). It is not possible to determine the actual cost of such future activities at this stage, therefore, the school provides parents/carers with an estimated maximum cost to enable them to budget for the year ahead. This information is provided with this booklet for your convenience.

When an activity is planned, and the student chooses to participate, parents/carers will be notified of the final cost (which will not exceed the estimated maximum previously stated in this document.) These activities are not compulsory and students are not disadvantaged by not participating.

KEY POINTS

Fee Type	Year Level	What you are paying for
Voluntary Contributions	Year 7-10	\$235 contribution to be distributed across all departments to help purchase in-class resources for students to use. This could include photocopying, class copies of textbooks and sporting equipment for Physical Education.
Voluntary Requests	All year levels	This payment helps the school make Chaplains available to students and families; replace the bus for all students to use in excursions, make more technology available in classrooms and better equip the P&C to avoid extra fundraising.
Optional Extra Activities and Project Fees	All year levels	During the year, students may be invited to participate in additional excursions or may be inspired to build something large or use more elaborate materials. These are optional but must be paid for in order to participate *\$5.00 to \$900.00 Students may be offered the opportunity to travel interstate or internationally for school camps. Participation by students is optional *\$2000.00 to \$3500.00
Course Charges (Compulsory)	Years 11 and 12	When your child enters Year 11 and 12 charges are compulsory.