



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE M&S CHARGE

POLLING PROCESS

Each year the Governing Council members vote on whether to poll the parent community in order to set the Materials & Services Charges for the next school year. The polling process means the Governing Council seeks support and approval from the school community for the amount of the Material & Services charges.

This can be a confusing process for parents & caregivers, so here are a few FAQs that we hope will answer any questions you may have.

WHAT ARE MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES?

These are the costs for all items that your child requires throughout their year of schooling, such as printed and electronic materials (worksheets, photocopied material, workbooks, text book use); stationery items (for R- 6 it is all stationery, 7-12 it is basic stationery items); access to information technology, machinery, equipment, other subject supplies and library resources including borrowing of books etc. **Camps & excursions that are a compulsory component of the curriculum are also included, meaning parents will not have to pay extra during the year for these activities. (this is the first time that this has been included in the R-6 charges).**

BUT I THOUGHT EDUCATION WAS FREE?

Education is free; parents do not pay for the costs of staff salaries, upgrade of facilities, utilities and maintenance, security, administration and other operational costs. These are all funded by the Government.

HOW ARE THE MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES CALCULATED?

The Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) sets a **Standard Sum** for primary and secondary students for the year in question. The Governing Council determines the costs of educating each student in each year level, based upon the curriculum and subjects offered. If this cost is above the **Standard Sum** set by DECD, it is then known as the **Prescribed Sum**.

SO WHY DOES THE GOVERNING COUNCIL POLL PARENTS?

This is a consultation process that most schools engage their school community in, to seek approval for the **Prescribed Sum** (*the actual cost of learning delivery at MCAS*). The Governing Council asks for your support to charge this **Prescribed Sum** for Material and Services charges.

ISN'T THIS A WAY OF JUST GIVING THE SCHOOL MORE MONEY?

No! To successfully offer diverse curriculum options, Governing Council needs to charge families accordingly. We want to offer our students at MCAS the best possible learning opportunities.

I'M ON SCHOOLCARD—WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

Whilst it won't affect your School Card benefit in any way, you are still entitled to a vote in the poll. If you believe that the Governing Council, as your elected representative, is duty bound to ensure the provision of quality learning opportunities through the collection of the Material and Services charge, your vote is important!

I'M STILL CONFUSED—WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?

You can speak to any of your Governing Council representatives or come into the school and speak to the Business Manager (Wendy Hayes) or the Principal (Kevin Mooney) and they can answer your questions.

