

# Clare High School

## Material and services charge (M&SC) – School Fees

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **How much is the CHS M&SC for 2021 and how does that compare to previous years charge?**

The 2021 CHS Watermarked M&S charge is \$545 for all year 7 to 12 students.

The CHS full fee for M&S charges in 2020 was also \$545. In 2018-2019 it was \$540.

#### **What does the CHS M&SC pay for?**

The M&S charge covers the cost of essential core curricular consumables and activities students undertake during the year.

#### **Items and services that can be included in the charge**

Printed and electronic materials related to the educational program and which are provided to the student, such as:

- photocopied material
- worksheets that have been copied or printed
- stationary items that are provided to students and their student ID cards
- materials to be added to the school library and to be used by the student, such as library resources, including access to borrowing library resources.

Stationery items that are provided to the student and are considered essential for the curriculum offered, such as pens, pencils, notebooks, scrapbooks, writing pads. Note: Each school determines what stationery items are considered essential for the curriculum offered.

Materials and services that are provided to undertake the fundamental elements of an educational program, and the student consumes or uses the materials, or takes ownership of a finished product that was produced from the materials, such as:

- access to student information technology,
- curriculum or subject supplies and services

#### **How is the CHS M&SC worked out?**

The costs incurred over past years are considered and adjusted to ensure all students continue to have access to quality curriculum consumables and activities relating to their learning.

#### **Is the CHS M&SC the same amount for students in different year levels?**

The CHS M&S charge is \$545/ student for year 7 to 12. There is an adjustment made if the student is part-time or does not attend for the whole year.

### **Why is the CHS M&SC higher than the Department for Educations Prescribed amount?**

CHS is able to offer a large range of subject offerings to meet the needs of students each year. Each subject area requires a consumable budget as well as stationary and printing supplies, text books, library books and ICT resources. Purchasing of specialist equipment and printing and photocopying costs are also included.

### **If the CHS M&SC is not increasing in 2021 from 2020 why are we being polled this year?**

There has been a change in section 129 of the Education and Children's Services Act 2019 to state: If the proposed charge is greater than the prescribed amount, the Act requires that in all circumstances all parents, caregivers and independent students (including school card holders) must be given the opportunity to participate in a poll about the proposed change.

### **Is there deferred payment options and hardship allowances available for families facing financial difficulties?**

The principal is authorised to:

- waive or reduce the charge. This could happen when a family experiences financial hardship, but do not qualify for School Card. This is to be dealt with confidentially between the principal and the parent, caregiver or independent student.
- allow parents, caregivers and independent students to perform tasks at the school as an 'in-kind' contribution towards the materials and services charge, if they offer. Should this occur, care must be taken to ensure that the school is not exposed to any undue risk.

The charge can be refunded if the parent, caregiver or independent student experiences financial hardship after paying the charge. The refund is to be dealt with confidentially.

Approved school card holders are exempt from paying their or their child's materials and services charge for the approved year.

### **How can fee payments be made at CHS?**

- Fees can be paid in full by the due date.
- Families can negotiate to pay fees through a negotiated time-payment method.
- School card applicants will have the prescribed amount paid per student.
- Families can confidentially request a payment in like for services to the school (confidential)
- Families can request consideration of personal hardship and have fees waived or reduced.

### **Does voting for the M&SC in 2021 affect my ability to get the school card benefit?**

The identity of school card holders or of applicants for the card must not be disclosed.

To preserve confidentiality, there can be no division between school card holders or school card applicants and fee-paying students either during the time of fee paying or afterwards. This means that the items and services provided to school card students must be the same as those provided to fee-paying students.

**(Reference: Materials and Services Charge document updated on 26 August 2020)**