

2025 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Families,

In preparation for 2025, please find below information related to levies, uniforms and school term dates.

LEVIES

Levies are one of the many ways that families contribute to our school community. Levies support student learning by contributing towards the cost of essential items and services. When setting school levies and charges the school:

- considers inclusive education, community expectations and family financial constraints
- sets levies at the lowest amount possible
- consults with the School Association of the school.

Levies are paid in Term One each year or can be paid in instalments using a payment plan (attached). Payment plans are available for all families and may continue through to the end of the school year.

Families who are supported through the Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) do not need to pay levies. Parents holding a Health Care Card, Low Income Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card are eligible for STAS for their children.

Each grade has a levy amount which entitles your child to a basic supply of stationery items, books, materials, and equipment associated with our learning programs. Levies also cover the cost of all excursions and performances for all grades. Grades 3/4/5 students attend a Swimming and Water Safety Program. Grades 5/6 students participate in Friday sport. These are included in the levies.

2025 Levies for non-STAS students:

	Kinder	Prep	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Total 2025	\$205.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$325.00	\$325.00

Invoices for the above amounts will be issued in February 2025.

Class teachers will distribute some books and stationery on the first day of school.

Throughout the school year there will be additional charges for items/services that are optional and that are not covered by the above levy structure. Parents will be advised of the cost of these charges as early as possible and indicative charges are shown below.

Optional Charges for 2025 are:

Optional activity or item	Indicative Charge	Indicative payment date
ESK Band	\$275 - \$400 tuition only or tuition and instrument hire. Prices set by Launceston College.	Term One
School Photos	\$25 - \$60 Prices set by MSP	Term One
School Magazine	\$20	Term Four, but can be paid anytime throughout the year.
Grade 6 Leavers T-shirt	\$30	Term Two
Grade 6 Dinner	\$30	Term Four
Dance Fever T-shirt	\$30 Price set by Launceston College	Term Three
Fundraising Activities (ie: Raffle, Footy colours day, Mother's/Father's Day stalls)	Gold coin	Various times through out the year

WHAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN LEVIES AND CHARGES?

LEVIES	CHARGES
Levies include costs for items and services that are required to complete the normal educational instruction at the school. Levies include the cost of: • <u>Any items which are essential to completing the student's core curriculum</u> (e.g. essential stationery, textbooks, cooking ingredients, gardening supplies). • <u>Any services like excursions, performances and activities that are part of the curriculum</u> (e.g. out-of-school excursions taken as part of a subject, in-school performances, guest speakers, class, year-level, and subject-specific camps). There are no compulsory payments you are required to make other than the annual levy. Stationery costs include a stationery pack that students receive at the start of the school year.	Charges are payments made to the school for items or services that are optional. Charges may apply for: • <u>Optional activities</u> (e.g. school band program) • <u>Optional items</u> (e.g. yearbook, school photos) • <u>More expensive items/materials than the standard materials provided</u> (e.g. hardwood instead of pine in woodwork)

LEVY PAYMENTS

Levies can be paid:

- At the school (by EFTPOS/credit card, cash or cheque)
- At Service Tasmania (by EFTPOS, cash or cheque)
- Online through BPAY (using the Biller Code and Reference on your invoice)
- By mail, forward your cheque, money order or credit card details to the school, with the payment slip from your invoice attached (payable to Summerdale Primary School)
- Using Centrepay, a service provided by Centrelink.

You can choose to pay your levies by instalment (please complete the attached form). Payment plans can continue through to the end of the school year.

Can I get help with school levies?

There are a range of options available to support families with the costs of schooling.

- You are eligible for the **Student Assistance Scheme** (STAS) if you hold a Health Care Card, Low Income Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card. Once you have applied for STAS, you will not need to pay any levies. You may apply online (<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/parent-fact-sheets/fees-levies/>), or collect a paper application form from your school office.
- Families receiving STAS can access the Spectacles Assistance Scheme to support children who require spectacles.
- A limited selection of second-hand uniforms is available for purchase at the school.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty or financial hardship, and none of the support options above will work for your family, please contact Carol McCullagh (School Business Manager) on 6344 5333, carol.mccullagh@decyp.tas.gov.au or the Department of Education's Financial Services Unit at finserv@decyp.tas.gov.au or on 1800 827 055.

Where can I access the Levies and Charges Policy for our school?

The Levies and Charges Policy for our school can be accessed by contacting the School Office on 6344 5333.

What will happen if I forget to pay?

Students will not be prevented from participating in any learning activities that are part of the curriculum if their levies have not been paid.

If your family has not paid their levies by the due date, and has not organised to pay in instalments, the school will be in contact to remind you that payment is due and will check to see if your family requires support. If your levies remain unpaid after the school has sent two follow-up letters, the matter will be forwarded to Finance and Budget Services within the Department of Education to be followed up.

Under no circumstances will the status of payment of levies or charges be discussed directly with students.

Who can I talk to about levies?

You are a valued member of our school community, and we welcome your feedback on levies and charges at our school.

You can contact Carol McCullagh (School Business Manager) on 6344 5333 if you have any questions or would like to talk about levies at our school. Personal information relating to levies will always be treated with total confidentiality.

The levies and charges we receive from families supports our school to deliver learning opportunities for all students. Thank you for your contribution.

UNIFORM SALES

Midford School Uniforms provide Summerdale Primary School uniforms. The Midford store is located at 132 Charles Street, Launceston (p) 6331 4622 (e) launceston@midford.com.au or uniforms can be ordered online www.midford.com.au

School hats are no longer part of the school levies and can be purchased directly from the School Office.

2025 TERM DATES

Term 1	6 February – 11 April Holidays: 14 April – 24 April
Term 2	28 April – 4 July Holidays: 7 July – 18 July Student Free Day: 6 June
Term 3	21 July – 26 September Holidays: 29 September – 10 October
Term 4	13 October – 18 December Student Free Day: 31 October

Dates are correct at time of printing. Term dates and Student Free Days will be advertised in the school newsletter and our school website.

The school office will be open from 20 January 2025.

Yours sincerely

Carol McCullagh
School Business Manager