



## STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME (SRS) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2021

### **What is the Student Resource Scheme (SRS)?**

The Student Resource Scheme (SRS) is a non-profit scheme that provides participants with textbooks, resource materials, practical equipment and materials, for student's use while attending school, which substantially reduces the financial burden to parents purchasing expensive resources. Our scheme is fully endorsed by The Gap State High School Parents and Citizens Association.

### **Is the SRS Voluntary?**

Participation in the SRS is voluntary. Parents are under no obligation to join – however, if they choose not to join the SRS, they will need to provide all resources for their child to access the educational resources necessary to enhance their learning experience in the classroom. This cost is higher than the cost of taking part in the scheme.

### **What can be included in a Student Resource Scheme (SRS)?**

There are three categories of SRS

- Curriculum resources, e.g. textbooks, student diaries, in-class consumables (included as Core inclusions SRS A and Elective Inclusions SRS B)
- Other educational programs, e.g. instrumental music, choir, excellence programs (included as SRS C)
- Personal computing devices, e.g. laptops or iPads (included as SRS D)

### **What do I receive by participating in the SRS?**

Textbooks and teacher prepared materials required for students in their subjects are provided if participating in the scheme as take home loans or class sets as appropriate. However textbooks are only a small part of what is provided when students participate. A wide range of equipment and materials, photocopied resources, software, digital resources, licences and databases are used in each subject.

A student resource scheme can include the provision of:

- Administration of the scheme
- Equipment hire (musical instruments, computer)
- All prescribed textbooks or ebooks for each subject
- Reproduced class materials which complement and/or substitute for textbooks
- Other student reference books
- Audio and video recordings
- Student diary/planner
- Student ID card – for external use (student discounts, transport)
- Computer disks/memory sticks
- Additional computer software
- Equipment e.g. calculators, electronic devices
- Materials for subjects where the instruction is extended through providing practical learning experiences in excess of materials provided by school grants
- Stationery, writing and drawing sets



### **What if I do not wish to join the SRS?**

Participation in the SRS is voluntary, however if you choose not to participate you will be required to provide all resources for your child's studies that would have been otherwise provided by participating in the scheme. **If you wish to opt out of the SRS for 2021, you will need to complete the non-participation section on the Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement Form and return it to the school by 29 January 2021.** Your child will not be issued with textbooks or resources by the school. If you do not wish to participate in the scheme, you will have the option of crediting the Govt Textbook and Resource Allowance against the non-participation charges or have the allowance refunded to you. Please note: all resources for student's study must be provided by parents if you do not join the school scheme and these costs are in excess of the cost of participating in the scheme.

### **When do we sign the Participation Agreement Form?**

The SRS Participation form is signed on enrolment and remains current for the duration of the student's enrolment at The Gap State High School. Updated details are provided to families annually and parents can opt out of the scheme in subsequent years by completing another Participation Agreement form.

### **Can you explain the Textbook allowance paid to schools?**

The Department of Education provides a Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA) to assist parents with the cost of textbooks and other education resources for eligible Years 7 to 12 students.

For those students who are eligible to receive the TRA, the TRA will be applied to reduce the cost of participation for Part A of the SRS as shown in the table below. Thus the SRS invoice you receive will be the full cost (SRS Part A) of participation in the SRS minus the TRA already held at the school.

The Dept of Education Textbook and Resource Allowances for 2021 are:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Years 7 to 10   | \$130 |
| Years 11 and 12 | \$281 |

### **What are the SRS Fees and Payment arrangements?**

Several payment options including a single payment for the full year's fee or term instalments are available. An instalment plan can also be negotiated with the school.

### **2021 SRS Fees Part A**

2021 SRS Part A Invoices for payment by parents for participation in the SRS will be:

|  |
|--|
| Year 7 total cost for Part A SRS \$520 minus TRA \$130 = SRS Part A Invoice \$390  |
| Year 8 total cost for Part A SRS \$520 minus TRA \$130 = SRS Part A Invoice \$390  |
| Year 9 total cost for Part A SRS \$520 minus TRA \$130 = SRS Part A Invoice \$390  |
| Year 10 total cost for Part A SRS \$530 minus TRA \$130 = SRS Part A Invoice \$400 |
| Year 11 total cost for Part A SRS \$681 minus TRA \$281 = SRS Part A Invoice \$400 |
| Year 12 total cost for Part A SRS \$681 minus TRA \$281 = SRS Part A Invoice \$400 |

Please be aware that there may be two lines of charges on your invoice indicating the GST inclusive and GST exclusive fees depending on the resources supplied by the SRS.

Invoices for the SRS are emailed home to Parents when raised by the school. Financial Statements are emailed to Parents on a regular basis. The preferred payment method is BPoint or QParents – details are included on each invoice.



If you wish to make a single payment for the full year's Part A fee of either \$390 for years 7 to 9 or \$400 for years 10 to 12, payment is requested by 29 January 2021.

If you have opted to pay the SRS by instalments, payments are requested as follows:

Term 1 payment of 35% of SRS Part A due for payment by 29 January 2021

Term 2 payment of 35% of SRS Part A due for payment by 23 April 2021

Term 3 payment of 30% of SRS Part A due for payment by 16 July 2021

Those choosing not to participate in the scheme will have the option to either sign the TRA over to the school to offset any fees or surcharges due, or to receive their entitlements to the TRA. However all resources for student's study across the curriculum must be provided by Parents and all subject fees paid.

#### **When will the invoices for elective and excellence program fees be issued (SRS B and C)?**

Invoices for elective subject fees (SRS B & C) based on student timetables will be issued in February 2021. Payment is requested within 30 days.

#### **What is the 2021 Personal Computing Device?**

The School has introduced a voluntary scheme for parents. Choose Your Own Device (CYOD) scheme assists families to purchase a laptop for students. Details are available on the school website. The service fee for personal devices (SRS D) will be invoiced in February 2021.

#### **What if our family is having financial difficulties?**

Any family experiencing financial difficulties is encouraged to contact the school's Business Manager to make an alternative payment plan.

#### **What if I have unpaid 2020 Fees?**

The school operates the SRS to benefit all eligible students. It is not viable for the school to provide this service if fees are outstanding. Students may be refused entry into the scheme if fees are outstanding from previous year/s.

Parents/Guardians who have agreed to participate in the SRS at this school have entered into an agreement and there is an obligation to pay these fees in exchange for the use of school resources.

As advised previously on our website, in our school newsletter and in correspondence to families, students may not be invited to participate in any non-curriculum activities including the senior formal, mid-year ski trip, end of year activities or the purchase of the senior jersey, if they have outstanding school fees. We refer to clause 32 (Debt Management) of the Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement form, which indicates that where participation fees are overdue, the Principal has the discretion to exclude a student from an optional school activity.

#### **Are families required to pay SRS in full before payment is made?**

Resources will not be distributed until the full or first payment has been paid to the school. Any unpaid invoices, will be managed according to the department's Debt Management Procedure and may result in the student being excluded from the scheme and/or from participating in extra-curricular activities until payments are made.



### **What if there is a family dispute over the payment of a student's school activity fees?**

In accordance with Qld Government Policy – Family law matters affecting state schools - Schools should not enter into part payment or 50/50 invoicing arrangements. It is a matter for the parents to determine who pays the invoiced fees. If there is a payment arrangement between the parents that has not been adhered to, that is a matter for the parents to resolve between themselves. If the fees are not paid in full (eg the school receives only part payment from one parent) then the child should not be allowed to participate in the activity.

### **Is there a cost if a resource is damaged while hired by a student?**

A repair or replacement cost will be charged to the Parent for any items that are damaged or not returned.

### **Do I receive a Pro-Rata Refund?**

Students leaving this school or transferring to another school, will be entitled to a pro-rata refund of SRS fees paid to the school and the TRA. The pro-rata allowance is based on a 40 week school year (excluding costs for ID Card, Student Planner etc).

### **Further Questions**

Further detailed information can be found on the back of the SRS Participation Agreement Form. For any further queries please contact the Business Manager on 3511 3888.