



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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M J Edmonds
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Dear M J Edmonds

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2014 about uniforms and stationery.

In July 2013, the Ministry of Education issued Education Circular 2013/06 *Payments by parents of students in state and state-integrated schools*. This circular is a revision of the earlier one issued in 1998.

The circular makes it clear that no payments are compulsory – except for two categories, these are attendance dues (payable to proprietors of state-integrated schools), and charges for purchases of goods and services (for example, canteen food, Saturday morning netball) where a parent or caregiver has agreed to pay for such a purchase. All other categories of payments must be voluntary.

The right to free education guaranteed by Section 3 of the Education Act 1989 means that there should be no charges associated with the delivery of the curriculum. There are no school fees, activity fees or levies in state or state-integrated schools and the terms should not be used in communication to parents. The term “fees” and “levies” should not be used to describe donations.

Boards of Trustees and proprietors are free to seek voluntary contributions/donations for general specific purposes – and parents are free to pay those contributions/donations in full, in part, or not at all.

Where parents are unable to meet the request for donations, pressure to make financial arrangements for payments should not be placed on the parents. No student should be harassed, or denied information or privileges because a parent has not paid a donation. Any action designed to pressure parents into making a donation could be seen as a contravention of the Education Act 1989.

The Ministry’s views on matters such as donations and activity charges are explained in the circular, which can be found at www.minedu.govt.nz/circulars2013.

Yours sincerely

Leo Trompetter
Senior Manager
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