



ISABELLA STATE SCHOOL

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

Frequently Asked Questions: For Parents

Q: Why is there a Resource Scheme?

A: We are trying to offer parents an economical and efficient way to ensure that their children have all the resources that they need available at school from Day 1 of Term 1. We implemented this for the first time in 2014, and both families and teachers were very positive about the benefits to children's learning of having all their supplies ready to use on the first day of school and the hassle-free process involved in participating in the scheme.

Q: Why are there 2 parts to the Resource Scheme?

A: **Part A** covers some special items that are more easily ordered by the school in bulk, as well as photocopying that is done in lieu of purchasing textbooks for a range of subjects in different year levels. This part of the scheme is currently operating in our school as in line with Government policy.

Part B was a new addition in 2014 and covers the Year Level booklists, which we can now organise for parents at a substantial discount and which will be delivered directly to the school. Parents still have the option to purchase booklist items themselves from their preferred supplier.

Q: Why can't parents just buy the items in Part A themselves?

A: **Part A** resources are purchased in bulk from specific suppliers and are distributed to students when needed for particular activities. For some curriculum programs, such as Spelling Mastery, students within a year level are working at a range of levels and the correct level workbook is identified for them through initial assessments that are carried out early in the year. Other items, such as specially ruled scrapbooks and red pencils that support our bookwork expectations, have been sourced from specific or unique suppliers.

Q: What are the advantages of buying Part B through the school?

A: It is cheaper: we have secured a substantial discount on most items. All items are the best quality: no cheap pencils that break. Everything is prepacked and supplied in one bag per student. Items go to the classroom for the student. You can pay a deposit to secure your order, balance due in term 1, or pay in full and this will ensure that your child will get the resources straight away on the first day of school. You can organise a payment plan through Centrelink or the school, or pay the full amount at any time.

Q: Can I just order the items I want from the booklist through the school?

A: No

Q: Why not?

A: We are unable to offer that option as the suppliers cannot personalise the bags they pack. Our discount comes from bulk ordering. You can customise your order by going to www.harleyeducational.com.au and using their 'Back to school orders' section or buying from your preferred supplier.

Q: What if I choose not to pay any money to the school?

A: Participation in both parts of the scheme is voluntary, however students do require all the resources supplied through both parts A and B. If you choose not to participate in either part you will need to purchase all items on the Booklist then wait to find out what level Spelling Mastery book (or Phonics/Grammar/ Maths book) your child needs and then source them yourself, as well as the other items supplied in Part A. Please speak to the office staff to make an appointment with an Administration team member to discuss the required resources.

Q: Why is there such a short timeline for committing to Part B?

A: We have been working on this project for many weeks and have just finalised the details. We need to have numbers to the supplier so they can order the stock required before the weather impacts on their deliveries and to enable them to begin the packing process.

Q: Can I pick up the bag of books when I pay? Can I take the bag of resources home to see what they've got and to cover my child's books?

A: The complete bag will be named and placed in the child's classroom after payment (or a deposit) is made, ready for the first day of school. Part of our reason for going with this scheme is so that students will have all their resources at school. If you wish to see all the items in the bag, you can do this on the first morning. To discuss naming items and covering books, please see your child's teacher. Some teachers may prefer that books are not covered or may like some help placing identifying stickers, names or covers on sets of books.

Q: How can you guarantee that the resources I buy will only be used by my child?

A: Teachers will keep extra items for each child in their named bag in the storeroom. When classroom items require replenishing, they will be taken from the child's bag. Students who bring no resources will be followed up by the school and a process put in place for those families to supply the required items.

Q: What happens if we leave?

A: The unused items will be returned to you in the child's bag as well as items in use in the classroom that have been purchased by you as currently would happen now.

Q: What if we are new to the school? How will it work for us?

A: On enrolment you will be offered the chance to sign up to the scheme and after payment, your child will receive their bag of resources. If enrolling in Semester 2, a pro-rata payment will be organised and the associated resources will be supplied for Part A. Depending on what time of year you enrol, we may be able to offer Part B packs for purchase as well.

Q: What about the items that are required from a previous year at the bottom of the booklist page? How will I know if my child still has theirs to use?

A: Teachers will be collecting mini whiteboards (from all year levels) and small red dictionaries (from Year 1 and 2 classes) that have been purchased previously and passing them on to the next year level here at school. Next year's class teacher can tell you early in the year whether a student needs a new mini whiteboard. They will be available from the Uniform Shop. Other items that are used over a number of years, such as dictionaries and atlases for older students, will be sent home this year and should be returned next year.

Q: Why aren't atlases on the booklist anymore? I purchased one for my child in previous years.

A: Due to new requirements for the Geography curriculum, atlases will now be used by more year levels so we have chosen to purchase some for the library. Students who have their own are encouraged to bring them to school. They will always have theirs as a reference.

Q: What are the resource and payment requirements for students with special needs who spend most of their time in the Support Centre?

A: Students who spend most or all of their time in the Support Centre do not require or use or the same texts or resources as those listed on year level Book Lists, however they do use a range of stationery items and considerable photocopied or printed resources are provided to them for their programs instead of workbooks.