

Student Resource Scheme 2026



Dear Parents,

At Talara Primary College our core business is to maximise learning outcomes. One initiative that we have implemented at TPC to empower the teaching and learning process is the Student Resource Scheme.

Talara's Student Resource Scheme is different to an annual family contribution scheme that many schools have as these are usually in addition to parents having to buy a full booklist of school stationery items. Parents are then faced with the accumulative expense of ongoing replacement of items throughout the year. Our scheme involves parents making a payment to the school instead of buying the usual booklist items, both initially and throughout the year.

Years of experience with the traditional booklist method, where parent's purchase books for their own students from a list issued by the school, has highlighted frustrations such as:

- not every child having what is required, when it is required
- well-meaning parents having paid good money for the wrong item – discovered when labelled and cannot be returned
- parents unaware their child requires replacement items and therefore students go without necessary school items, if parents are not in a situation to respond quickly
- teachers having to work with booklist items (often determined by other teachers) that are not required or not ideal to support the teacher's individualised program
- lack of flexibility for the teacher
- waste if a teacher is unable to use items purchased because they do not align to the current unit of work
- parents being sent on an almost impossible "hunt and gather" – along with a couple of other million
- parents –often all in the same shopping aisle at the same time
- last minute dash to the corner shop on the way to school by frazzled parents and upset students to buy a "must have now" item.

I'm sure anyone who has worked with this traditional scheme before Talara will know the pitfalls. The challenges can be lessened with pre-packaged purchases but many of the pitfalls in selection and lack of flexibility still prevail.

The Student Resource Scheme is preferred because the scheme ensures your child receives exactly what they need at the time they need it.

This is a very powerful difference in the teaching and learning process and makes this scheme one of the cornerstones of our curriculum success. Teachers are able to make lessons happen as they are planned and students are not disadvantaged or unprepared for a lesson.

Every child has the same item and the loss of concentration typically brought about by being without items, the presence of gimmick items, student competitiveness and comparison is minimised.

The scheme gives teachers the opportunity to determine exactly what students require as the units of work are planned at key times throughout the year. The spin-off is that teachers are not constrained to use the booklist requirements that parents have bought according to a booklist set long before the exact requirements of individual teachers and current units of work is known. **The prevention of waste and the flexibility that supports learning, made possible by this scheme are highly desired outcomes of this scheme.**

Replacement items are provided throughout the year. This means you no longer have the worry about your child's ongoing requirements.

The 2026 annual charge is \$150 for Prep to Year 4; \$130 for Year 5 & 6.

This amount includes all stationery items, textbooks, as well as art materials, printed materials, cooking ingredients, the list goes on. Each year level also has an ICT program purchased (Prep-Yr 2: Phonics Hero, Yr 3 & 4: Reflex Maths, Yr 5 & 6: MathsOnline). An online consent request will be sent through QParents at the beginning of each school year.

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Parents are provided with the opportunity to make one annual payment or 3 instalments. Student Resource scheme payments for 2026 may now be made at the office. Early payment during this semester will greatly assist us to ensure your students' materials are ready for day one next year.

We encourage parents/carers to make annual payments where possible. Please check payment methods on the next page. The school office will be open the week before school starts. Students arrive at school on Day 1 to find a starter pack of stationery items set out on their desk; **therefore, payment for Semester 1 must be made BEFORE 5pm Monday 19 January 2026 for Day 1 stationery items to be provided.**

The payment schedule options are as follows:

Option A: Once only, full annual payment, paid by 19 January; or

Option B: Three negotiated instalments within the first 2 weeks of Terms 1, 2 and 3
(Prep – Yr 4: \$80 for Term 1, \$35 for Term 2, \$35 for Term 3)
(Yr 5 & 6: \$70 for Term 1, \$30 for Term 2, \$30 for Term 3)

As the booklist requirements are determined as teachers plan throughout the year, the exact set of items your child will receive will differ from class to class and from year to year. It is therefore not possible to confirm exactly what we will provide your child over the year as flexibility is at the essence of the scheme's benefit to learning. The way in which teachers organise student access to resources will vary according to the nature of lessons and variations in the way teachers prefer their class to operate.

Each year teachers carefully select specialised items and we are then faced with the challenge of sourcing those specialised items to ensure adequate stock. In addition to these texts and specialised requirements, teachers select from a base range of stationery items and order in any specialised item as requested. Since we order enormous quantities of stock, the prices are very favourable and enable us to ensure your money is economically spent. We also are well positioned to monitor the quality, durability and appropriateness of the stock we buy for a primary school setting and improve on the range wherever possible. (Yes, we will scoop on back-to-school specials to ensure the potential of your money is maximised.) Remember, we pay a GST free price as well.

Items are not handed out all at once although a significant number of items are provided at the beginning of the year or upon enrolment. Items are presented as required and replacement of items automatically occurs throughout the year. This means that it takes all year for your child's full set of provisions to appear.

As part of the Student Resource Scheme, students' access class sets of expensive items such as dictionaries, atlases and calculators as learning is better facilitated when every child can work from the same product that is the focus of the lesson.

Our experience tells us that the loss of writing materials is very high when they make the journey to and from school. Therefore, writing materials stay at school and you are asked to provide pencils, rubbers and rulers required for homework at home. Obviously, books will commute and you are encouraged to cover and label them as they appear.

Enrolling students arriving with provisions from other schools are instructed to leave all writing instruments at home for home use. Book items, which match classroom book items, will be used in class.

Due to the ongoing costs of replacements, we have typically not had leftover funds at the end of the year. However, if we do have any surplus, we report the total to the P&C at their Annual Finance Meeting. The P&C then decides how these funds will be used to directly benefit all students, often investing in resources like library books or home reading trolleys.

We want to assure you that we remain accountable to you throughout this process. This funding scheme has received exceptional support and is highly valued by our community. Its success relies on every parent contributing, as your payments play a crucial role in supporting your child's learning.

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This initiative and the expenses are approved and supported by our Parents' and Citizens' Association and is reviewed each year by the P&C. Teachers are very strong advocates because they believe it really does greatly assist the learning process and enhance the way activities can be organised.

Please indicate on the slip provided if you intend supporting the scheme and your preferred method of payment. Please forward this form to the school office, together with payment, as soon as possible. Payments can be made at any time at the office. Although this scheme is voluntary, we welcome the opportunity to discuss with any parent not wishing to support the scheme any issue they have so that we can understand their reservations and seek ways to improve the scheme.

If you wish to seek further information about the scheme, please telephone 5438 3777 and I will be happy to address any concerns you may have. Obviously, we seek your support because our job is to maximise the learning opportunities for your children. The success of the scheme over the last 24 years has been a result of the overwhelming support from our parent community.

Kind regards

Lisa Cutter

Acting Principal

PAYMENT OPTIONS IN ORDER OF PREFERRED METHOD:

1. QPARENTS:

Approved QParents Account Owners can use the QParents App to view outstanding invoices, make payments and view payment history. There is no minimum payment required for QParents payments. If you're not an existing approved user, please contact our office to request an invitation email.

2. BPOINT ONLINE PAYMENTS:

Click on the active BPoint website link on the bottom left side of your emailed invoice. A secure payment window will open and be pre-filled with the invoice number and student details. Enter the amount you are paying and your payment details. There is no minimum payment required. *Only single invoices can be paid by BPoint.*

3. EFTPOS:

Payment can be made at the school administration office.

4. CENTREPAY:

Use Centrepay to arrange regular deductions from your Centrelink payment. Centrepay is a voluntary payment option available to Centrelink customers. Go to humanservices.gov.au/Centrepay for more information.

5. CASH:

Payment can be made at the school administration office.