

# School Purchasing Card Policy

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## Purpose

To provide guidelines and processes to support the School Council when establishing a Purchasing Card Program, whilst ensuring the school's procedures and internal controls are compliant with DET Policy and Guidelines.

## Scope

This policy applies to Hillsmeade Primary School Councillors and to any staff who have a role within the Purchasing Card Program as an authoriser, administrator or cardholder.

## Policy

The current government contract is for a VISA Corporate Card issued by the Westpac Bank.

The school will ensure the following are present:

- adequate internal controls and security measures
- a register of cardholders
- locally determined credit limits
- School Council reporting procedures to implement and monitor the operation of the school purchasing card facility.

The Principal and Business Manager are required to attend a Purchasing Card Briefing before establishing a Purchasing Card. Briefings can be organised by contacting the School Finance Liaison Officer (SFLO) or emailing [schoolspurchasingcard@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:schoolspurchasingcard@edumail.vic.gov.au).

### School Council

School Council will approve the implementation of a Purchasing Card Program, with appropriate card limits. These approvals will be formally minuted.

Council is responsible for monitoring of spending to ensure that the purchasing cards are being used in accordance with the Expenditure Management guidelines set out in Section 11 of the Finance Manual for Victorian Government Schools.

### Authorisation Officer

The Principal will be the Authorisation Officer. Where the Principal is the cardholder, the School Council President must be the authorisation officer for that card.

As the authorisation officer, the Principal/School Council President is responsible for:

- briefing cardholders and ensuring they complete an *Undertaking by Cardholder* form

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- approving expenditure
- monitoring transactions, statements and reports

The Authorisation Officer must ensure all processes and procedures comply with Department requirements and this policy.

The Authorisation Officer will terminate or deactivate cards when no longer needed.

## Card Holder

Each cardholder must complete an *Undertaking by Cardholder* form agreeing to conditions and limits before a card may be ordered. This includes:

- name of cardholder
- position
- name of School Council President
- all of the fields within the body of the undertaking, which includes maximum limit, monthly limit, and transaction restrictions
- dated
- signature of cardholder
- name of the Principal, and
- signature of the Principal.

Cardholders must be Department employees who have been approved by the School Council.

The card must never be used for payment of personal expenses of any nature or to withdraw a cash advance.

Cardholders must not allow any unauthorised persons to use the Purchasing Card.

The Cardholder will be held personally liable for any unauthorised use of the Purchasing Card, unless the unauthorised use is the result of the Purchasing Card being lost or stolen, or the result of fraud on the part of a third party.

Lost or damaged cards are to be immediately reported to Westpac and the appropriate Authorisation Officer.

The Cardholder is responsible for providing all receipts, to reconcile a monthly statement.

## Further Information & Resources

### References:

Financial Manual - Financial Management for Schools July 2020 and Reviewed September 2020  
and

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/school/pal/finance-manual>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/school/pal/expenditure-management-finance-manual-section-11>

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## Review Cycle

- This policy, first developed in this format in May 2019, updated in February 2020 and again in September 2020, will be reviewed and approved by School Council annually (preferably in February) (latest DET update early September 2020).

A mandatory policy

School Council Approval Required

This update was ratified April 2021.