

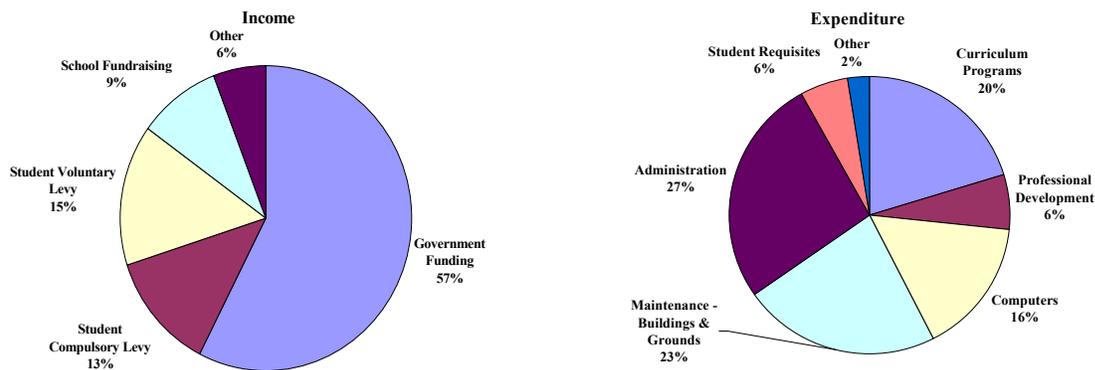
Locally raised funds – the facts

The recent successful staging of the Artists' Camp Fair again highlighted the terrific dedication of the School community in organising major fundraising events.

We all recognise that fundraising activities are a regular part of School life. But how is this fundraising money actually used? Is it simply a handy “top-up” fund that allows the School to undertake discretionary one-off projects and purchases?

As the School Council has been developing the School's global budget for 2006 and setting the levels of Voluntary Contributions, it is timely to explain this in more detail.

The charts below are based on the 2006 global budget, recently approved by RMPS Council, and illustrate the School's major funding sources and expenditure lines.



The budget forecasts that over 35% of the School's regular operating and maintenance costs will be met from Student Contributions (Voluntary and Compulsory) and local fundraising. In other words, as is the case with most comparable primary schools, RMPS requires substantial local fundraising to ensure a full and high quality educational experience.

The locally raised funding component of the budget is consistent with the levels of the past few years and is due to the fact that Departmental funding through the Student Resource Package is not sufficient to fully fund curriculum development and the maintenance and improvement of the educational environment for our children.

The increases in Voluntary Contribution levels approved by Council for 2006 reflect the rising costs of providing these services and have been calculated with careful regard for maintaining the School's high standards of curriculum and facilities whilst not imposing too onerous a burden on families.

The levels of Voluntary Contributions set by RMPS compare favourably with those of similar neighbouring schools and we are more than happy to discuss flexible payment options if required.

Moreover, in setting the level of Contributions, Council recognises that there are limits to the time and effort parents and School staff can spend on staging additional fundraising activities and we have structured the budget to keep the fundraising target at a manageable and achievable level.

For further information about the School budget and the setting of locally raised funding targets, please contact the Treasurer, Sam Steele on tel. 9817 4074 (AH).