

# SCHOOL PURCHASING CARD POLICY

Lowanna College: School Number 01-8821

## Rationale:

At times it is necessary to use a School Purchasing Card for acquiring goods or services. The use of a School Purchasing Card requires strict monitoring.

## Aim:

To provide guidelines and processes to support Lowanna College School Council when establishing a Purchasing Card Program, whilst ensuring the school's procedures and internal controls are compliant with Department of Education and Training (DET) policy and guidelines.

## Implementation:

1. This policy applies to Lowanna College School Councillors and to any staff who have a role within the Purchasing Card Program as an authoriser, administrator or cardholder.
2. The current government contract is for a VISA Corporate Card issued by the Westpac Bank. Lowanna College will ensure the following are present:
  - a. adequate internal controls and security measures;
  - b. a cardholder register;
  - c. locally determined credit limits; and
  - d. School Council reporting procedures to implement and monitor the operation of the school purchasing card facility.
3. The Principal and Business Manager are required to attend a Purchasing Card Briefing. 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).
4. Lowanna College School Council will approve the implementation of a Purchasing Card Program, with appropriate card limits. These approvals will be formally minuted.
5. School 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.
6. Lowanna College's Principal will be the Authorisation Officer. Where the Principal is the cardholder, the School Council President must be the Authorisation Officer for that card.
7. As the Authorisation Officer, the Principal/School Council President is responsible for:
  - a. briefing cardholders and ensuring they complete an 'Undertaking by Cardholder' form;
  - b. approving expenditure; and
  - c. monitoring transactions, statements and reports.
8. The Authorisation Officer must ensure all processes and procedures comply with DET requirements and this policy.
9. The Authorisation Officer will terminate or deactivate cards when no longer needed.
10. Each cardholder must complete an 'Undertaking by Cardholder' form agreeing to conditions and limits before a card may be ordered.
11. Cardholders must be DET employees who have been approved by the School Council.

12. The card must never be used for payment of personal expenses of any nature or to withdraw a cash advance.
13. Cardholders must not allow any unauthorised persons to use the Purchasing Card.
14. 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.
15. Lost or damaged cards are to be immediately reported to Westpac and the appropriate Authorisation Officer.
16. The Cardholder is responsible for providing all receipts, to reconcile a monthly statement.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure consistency with any advice or instruction received from the DET.

This policy was last ratified by College Council on 18 June 2018.