

31st October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fairhills Primary School is very proud of the quality programs in place to cater for the needs and interests of our students. We are looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Fairhills Primary School's voluntary financial contributions schedule for 2025.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum. As a smaller school, the budget is extremely limited. Schools are allocated funding each year based on student numbers and this is a fixed amount set in February each year. There isn't a bottomless bucket of money handed out to schools when requested.

We want to thank all parents who supported the school over the past 12 months, whether that's through fundraising, financial contributions or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. Your support in 2024 allowed us to provide:

- Individual student books and stationery
- Art Consumables. Includes craft paper, paints, glitter and cardboard
- Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials
- School sporting equipment
- Stem supplies
- Mathematics – numeracy blocks etc
- ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets (laptop and iPads)
- Online subscriptions such as Compass, Reading Eggs and Essential Assessments
- Student wellbeing programs
- Student badges and awards and Junior School Council and student initiatives
- Sick Bay/First Aid supplies and materials
- School Sports Victoria affiliation

We are conscious of the current economic situation and therefore have decided not to increase the contributions for 2025. The amounts listed are the minimum amounts that enable the school to continue to meet the high-quality standards that we have set at Fairhills Primary School.

Parents are asked to please review the recommended voluntary financial contributions schedule below for an indication of recommended contributions for your child/ren.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Tanya Burton
Principal

Beverley Shaw
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual student books and stationery • Art Consumables. Includes craft paper, paints, glitter and cardboard • Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials • School sporting equipment • Stem supplies • Mathematics – numeracy blocks etc • ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets (laptop and iPads) • Online subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading Eggs ○ Essential Assessments 	\$250
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compass • Student wellbeing programs • Student badges and awards and Junior School Council and student initiatives • Sick Bay/First Aid supplies and materials including tissues • School Sports Victoria affiliation 	\$50
BUILDING AND GROUNDS CONTRIBUTION This contribution will be used to maintain and improve school buildings and facilities, to ensure the safety of our children.	\$50
Total Amount	\$ 350

Category	Amount
Curriculum Contributions	\$250
Other Contributions	\$50
Building and Grounds Contributions	\$50
TOTAL FAMILY CONTRIBUTION	\$

Extra-Curricular (OPTIONAL) Items and Activities

Fairhills Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis. Examples of these activities are shown and details of these items and activities will be provided to students and families throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount - TBA
Life Ed Program, Circus/Dance Program, Interschool Sports Programs, Year level Excursions/Incursions, school camps, school photos and various invitational programs	\$ user-pays basis per event

Educational items for students to own

These are a list of items that will be purchased by the school from Maxim Office Supplies for your child to use throughout the year. Items will include books, stationery and anything else required to access the curriculum. There will be some variation between items, depending on which year level your child is in for 2025. Headphones are included and these can be carried through your child's years at the school.

Financial Support for Families

Fairhills Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- *State Schools' Relief* - provides financial support for eligible families to purchase clothing/uniforms at a reduced rate
- *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund* - provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. CSEF Funding is available for Health Care Card and Pension Card Holders
- *School Saving Bonus* – provides \$400 in one-off support for Victorian school-aged students for use on 2025 school costs
- *Payment plans for Extra-Curricular items and activities*

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements if you don't have an immediate capacity to pay, please contact: Principal, Tanya Burton, or the school Business Manager, Kathy Jacobs on 9758-3007 or email fairhills.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Fairhills Primary School. Payment can be made electronically with credit card, either in full or in instalments, via Compass. Alternatively, cash, cheque and eftpos payments can be made directly at FPS Office.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.