



November 2024

2025 Parent Payments and Parent Payments Policy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Merri Creek Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

School Council has increased the recommended financial contribution to \$360. This payment has not increased since 2022.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

The Department of Education emphasises the voluntary nature of parent payments.

Impact at MCPS

Parent/Carer voluntary contributions make a significant difference to the quality of our programs. The environment and resources that we enjoy today represent the contributions made by our parent/carers community each year.

Without community willingness to continue this financial support through voluntary contributions, we will be unable to maintain the same level that we expect for our children.

Request

For those who can make contributions, we request that they make the voluntary contributions in order to support the ongoing quality programs, resources and environment we can provide for our children.

Please find attached Merri Creek Primary School's voluntary financial contributions schedule for 2025. All necessary consumable items will be supplied directly to classrooms in bulk and will be distributed to students as and when they are needed.

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

Yours sincerely,

Kerri Gibson
Principal

Stuart Whiley
School Council President



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
• General classroom stationery and materials • Art - materials • Science – experiment-based materials • Mathematics – materials • English – class sets, novels, readers • Physical Education & Sport – sport equipment, materials • Technology – materials for cooking, constructing • Music – equipment, materials • Language other than English – materials • Sexuality Education presented by Vanessa Hamilton	\$196
Subscriptions, ie. Assessments, Seesaw, Library programs, teaching and learning resources.	\$44
ICT Devices – provision and upkeep of school devices and employment of locally funded School Technician.	\$120
Swimming program – a suggested amount for this will be provided in 2025.	TBA
SUGGESTED TOTAL AMOUNT	\$360



Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Merri Creek Primary School welcomes your voluntary contributions to support our families and/or school. The Building and Library Funds are tax-deductible. There is a sliding scale of a suggested contribution to the fund of your choice (Building or Library) based on combined family income as follows: \$100 per family for a combined income of \$75,000 and up to \$125,000 \$200 per family for a combined income of \$125,000 and up to \$175,000 \$300 per family for a combined income of \$175,000 and above	
<i>Equity Fund – to support our school families experiencing disadvantage</i>	\$
<i>Building Fund – a tax-deductible donation to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure</i>	\$
<i>Library Fund – a tax-deductible donation to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource</i>	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$

Extra-Curricular Items & Activities
Merri Creek 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 to deliver the curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis. No payment is required for these items or activities at this time – permission forms and payment requests will be sent out to families throughout 2025.
<i>Optional After School Music program. (If your child participates in this program, there is a \$60 administrative levy payable and also payment to the music tutors.)</i>
<i>Optional Year 6 Hoodies</i>
<i>Optional Whole school photos</i>
<i>Optional Years 3/4/5/6 school camps</i>
<i>Optional Years 4/5/6 swimming and athletics carnivals</i>
<i>Optional Years 4/5/6 District and Division Sports competitions</i>
<i>Optional Years 5/6 Sports Gala Day</i>
<i>Other optional excursions to be scheduled</i>



School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus will provide \$400 in one-off support for Victorian school-aged students in Term 4 2024, for use on 2025 school costs.

Families can choose how they want to spend the School Saving Bonus. It can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks

Additional financial support for families

Merri Creek Primary School understands that some families may need additional financial support and offers a range of options, including:

- Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for the Camp, Sports, and Excursions Fund. This provides \$150 per year for eligible primary school students. Application forms are available from the school office.
- The School Council has an Equity Fund to support families in need.
- Families are welcome to make payments by instalment.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact Gayle Stephenson, Business Manager, 9481 0177 or gayle.stephenson@education.vic.gov.au or Kerri Gibson, Principal.

Payment methods

- *CompassPay*
- *EFTPOS – come into the office or pay over the phone.*
- *Cheque – payable to Merri Creek Primary School*
- *Cash*

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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.