



Dear parent/guardian,

Dorset Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Dorset Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

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.

With contribution and support it allows us to continue to maintain and develop our school gardens and play areas, with the installation of new play equipment and spaces around the school. The school has been able to continue offering a wide range of extra-curricular curriculum activities including the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden program.

Please find attached Dorset Primary School's voluntary financial contributions schedule for 2025, which includes an overview of what your contributions will contribute towards.

Department of Education guidelines now mandate that schools are UNABLE to provide parents with a statement of fees. With this in mind, 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,

Palma Coppa
Principal

Mary Miller
School Council President



2025 VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE

| Curriculum Contributions – items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum | Amount |
|--|--------------|
| Year F-6 Classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom Materials (\$45) Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper (\$10) Science – materials (\$20) Mathematics – numeracy blocks and materials, calculators, stationery (\$20) English – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers, stationery (\$20) Sports – equipment, ribbons, trophies (\$10) | \$125 |
| Year F-6 Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathseeds (Year F-1), Matific (Year 2-4), Mathletics (Year 5-6) - (\$10) Reading Eggs (\$10) Soundwaves (\$10) | \$30 |
| Year F-6 ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets | \$20 |
| Year F-6 Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials | \$40 |
| Year F- 6 Whole school events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation to Year 2 Cooking - \$15 per term Year 3-6 SAKG Gardening and Cooking - \$15 per term | \$60 |
| Total Amount | \$275 |
| Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities | Amount |
| Student wellbeing programs – Clubs, Support Programs, Student Counsellor (individual sessions, lunchtime clubs and group work) | \$15 |
| First aid equipment | \$10 |
| School grounds maintenance and improvements | \$30 |
| Total Amount | \$55 |

| Item | Item Amount | Number of students in your family | Annual Amount per FAMILY |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Curriculum Contributions | \$275 | | \$ |
| Other Contributions | \$55 | | \$ |
| TOTAL FAMILY CONTRIBUTION | | | \$ |



Curriculum Contributions

Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum, including:

- Computer applications where our students have their own individual password – At Dorset Primary School we use Mathseeds, Matific, Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Soundwaves.
- Everyday items that your child will use in the classroom to learn the essential curriculum such as art supplies, science experiment equipment, cooking ingredients, technology materials.

Other Contributions

Non-Curriculum items and activities to support the daily operation and objectives of Dorset Primary School.

Extra-Curricular (OPTIONAL) Items and Activities

Dorset 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. Details of these items and activities will be provided to students and families throughout the year.

| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities | Amount |
|---|--------|
| <i>Optional Interschool Sports program, athletics & cross country</i> | TBA |
| <i>Other optional incursions & excursions to be scheduled</i> | TBA |

Educational items for students to own

Dorset Primary School will be purchasing the book packs for parents to come and collect from the office in January so you can label if you wish to do so.



Financial Support for Families

Dorset 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**
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/stateschoolsrelief.aspx>
- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions**
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>
- **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, please contact Cynthia Hellenen or Palma Coppa on 03 9725 5038, or email dorset.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

To ensure families are eligible for any extra funding support, it is highly recommended to access/research the above links.

Payment methods

Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Dorset Primary School.

Payments can be made by BPay (Please contact the office If you don't know your number) or by Direct Deposit into Dorset Primary School's bank account:

BSB: 063124

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10123604

Please ensure you use your child's name and description of what you are paying for as a reference and send an email to dorset.ps@education.vic.gov.au to advise.

Alternatively, cash, EFT and cheque payments can be made directly at Dorset Primary School 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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victoria 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.



BOOK COLLECTION DAY

28TH JANUARY 2025

**Parents from Foundation to Year 6
can come and collect the book pack
for their child/children on this day.**

**The office will be open from
8.30am to 3.30pm.**