

1 November 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sunbury 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.

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. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Over the years, this support has allowed us to open our new specialist buildings with air-conditioning partly funded through voluntary contributions, maintain our beautiful grounds and buildings, purchase new flexible furniture for our classrooms and resource our STEAM Specialist program with the technology and equipment required. In 2025 these funds will continue to ensure the vision of our Educational Programs as well as the ongoing improvement of our buildings, fittings and fixtures.

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

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Weissbacher
Acting Principal



Jay Hazelman
School Council President

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.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Suggested Amount
Prep to Year 6 classroom consumables, materials & equipment • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper (\$10) • STEAM – circuits, robotics, 3D digital printing (\$15) • SAKG – food, cooking equipment, (\$25) • LOTE – books, craft, cultural artefacts (\$10) • Book Pack including exercise books, pencils, scissors, glue sticks and reading journals (Prep – 2) etc. (\$40) • General classroom supplies – loose leaf paper, coloured paper and card, markers, craft, display folders (\$35) • English – book boxes, GR Texts, TH Reading Texts (\$15) • Prep to Year 6 Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials (\$10) • Digital Technology (including shared devices, apps, subscriptions) (\$20)	\$180
Sub-Total	\$180

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Suggested Amount
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$20
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund - A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure	\$20
Sub-Total Amount	\$40

Total Suggested Amount	\$220
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Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Sunbury 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. The costs below are an estimate only.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Approximate Amount only
Optional Year 2 Camp (Day-Stay)	\$97
Optional Year 3/4 Camp	\$235
Optional Year 5/6 Camp	\$430

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	
Optional Sporting events (including year 5-6 interschool sports)	TBA
Optional Other Department-run Camps (Somers OR Worrinda)	TBA
Optional Musical Performance	TBA
Optional excursions and incursions to be scheduled	TBA
Optional Instrumental Music Program	TBA
Optional P-2 Swimming Program and 3-6 Swimming Carnivals	TBA
Optional Yr. 6 Graduation Celebrations and Merchandise	TBA
Optional School Photography	TBA

Book Packs will be delivered directly to your child's classroom. School materials will not need to be labelled.

School Council is offering the following Payment Plan options for 2025:

- Option A - Payment in full via Compass from **Monday 6 January 2025**
- Option B - A Payment Plan via COMPASS Pay Course Confirmation
- Option C - Other Arrangements in consultation with the School Principal

Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Payment Plan Options

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact the School Office on 9744 9744 or by email at sunbury.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Weissbacher
Acting Principal



Jay Hazelman
School Council President

School Saving Bonus

Information for government school parents and carers

About the School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

Who receives the School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

Actions for parents and carers

Parents and carers of children who meet the School Saving Bonus eligibility above are required to do the following by **Friday 18 October 2024**:

- **Complete enrolment**

If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025, please complete enrolment. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).

- **Check your contact information**

Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school. You can check this information by contacting your school directly.

Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus.

The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to access it via an online system.

You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system.

The bonus 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.

The bonus can be used at your school's approved textbook or uniform suppliers either in-store or online, or through State Schools' Relief. The list of suppliers may include a school uniform or bookshop. Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

Families with more than one eligible child

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

More information

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus. Translated information will also be available on the School Saving Bonus website in the next few weeks.