



24 November, 2022

Dear parents/carers,

We are looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Footscray City Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

Government schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements 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 benefit enormously from the active engagement of our families at FCPS, and we thank you for this support. Whether this participation is through membership of the School Council and sub-committees, Parent/Carer classroom helpers, connecting us with local organisations and events or through fundraising or volunteering your time - this all makes a significant difference to our connectedness as a community and to the learning and wellbeing programs that we can offer.

For many years we have benefited from the high rate of return on parent payment requests for curriculum contributions which has allowed us to:

- source quality stationery resources through a bulk purchasing process at a reduced price. This ensures all students have consistent items and removes the need for families to source their own resources.
- allocate resources to support our specialist programs such as art materials, musical instruments and sport equipment.
- enhance our science learning program to comprise incursions with specialised teachers covering topics such as chemistry, biology, and physics.
- Include a range of supporting assessment programs and data analysis software that supports the implementation of our assessment schedule, enabling us to efficiently and accurately track student learning growth (growth over 12 months is measured by this assessment package)
- purchase subscriptions for apps such as Mathletics and Seesaw that complement our homework and digital learning portfolio implementation.

There is a modest increase in the parent payment in 2023 due to the inclusion of new initiatives, increases in ICT investment and cost of programs.



Our families have also made generous financial contributions to:

- the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Fund which has enabled us to support all children to participate in learning programs and experiences such as camps, incursions and excursions and we've also used these funds to purchase additional learning resources (board games, puzzles, chess sets) as part of our Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Framework that acknowledges and celebrates expected behaviours.
- the Grounds Fund, in addition to funds raised last year, will go towards the proposed refurbishment of the Hyde Street fence line. Any residual funds will be used for similar garden maintenance and enhancement projects.
- the Buildings Fund which we will use as contingency in consultation with school council to draw upon as we respond to capital works and other needs that arise during the project.

We look forward to your ongoing support and collaboration, and invite you to view the Department's Parent Payments Policy for further information (see a one-page overview attached). This letter is a notification of the upcoming contribution only. We will advise you early next year when we are ready to receive your payment via Compass.

Yours sincerely,

Jessie Hand
Principal

Angela Glover
School Council President



Grade 6 Parent Payment Schedule

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount \$
General classroom materials and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General stationery items - pens, pencils, textas, exercise books, scissors, pencil case, ruler, glue stick, erasers, whiteboards, whiteboard markers, craft materials ● Student diary to support the homework program and student organisational skills. ● Headphones to support the implementation of Digital Technologies curriculum. 	96
Subject specific materials and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English – Smart Spelling, Fountas and Pinnell benchmarking, classroom library and book club materials, book boxes, assessment tools ● Maths - numeracy resources, Mathletics, assessment tools ● Art - display books, paints, paintbrushes, crayons, charcoal, clay, etc ● Music - display books, pens, instruments, etc ● Language - display books, exercise books, pens, etc ● PE - sports equipment, ribbons, 	81
Provision of ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision and maintenance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ devices for classroom use including iPads, Chromebooks ○ printers/photocopiers/servers ● Digital and online subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mathletics 	92
Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPA Tracker ● PAT Testing ● NGST Spelling 	22
Curriculum activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science Workshops (Mad About Science) ● Health – Relationships & Sexuality Education ● Digital Technology Cyber Safety Workshop 	112
Photocopying and printing of learning materials	11
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount \$
Sports affiliation - School Sports Victoria membership	2



Parent communication tools - Compass, website	15
First aid supplies and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunscreen, sanitiser, cold packs, bandaids, bandages, defibrillator, etc 	10
<p>Student Engagement and Wellbeing Fund</p> <p>By contributing to this fund you are supporting every child to fully participate in extracurricular activities at school. Equitable opportunities for all students regardless of the socio-economic situation of their family aligns with our objective of children being healthy, happy and active members of an inclusive and connected learning community.</p>	
<p>Grounds Fund</p> <p>The Buildings and Grounds Committee and School Council are committed to delivering ongoing improvements to the grounds at FCPS, enabling us to maximise the gardens, play spaces and sporting facilities for the whole community to enjoy.</p> <p>Funds raised through voluntary contributions will be directed to the longer-term project of redesigning the Hyde Street school entry and fence line, a design project that will be timed to work in with the capital works project. Any residual funds will be used for similar garden maintenance and enhancement projects.</p>	
Tax deductible contributions	
<p>Buildings Fund</p> <p>A tax deductible contribution to the Buildings Fund will assist in providing great facilities for your children to learn and collaborate. Our capital works project will see the refurbishment of the Main Building commence in 2023 and donations to the Buildings Fund will contribute to needs that arise from the project.</p>	
Total Amount	\$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Footscray City Primary School offers a range of activities, such as excursions and camps, 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 details of which will be communicated to families throughout the year.

In grade 6 the planned extra-curricular activities include:

- Swimming/water safety program - delivery of quality swimming and water safety education so that all students have the opportunity to learn how to swim, through which they develop lifelong skills in water. The Department of Education provide funding to subsidise this program.
- Camp – an integral part of the curriculum that addresses Personal & Social Capabilities, along with Physical Education outcomes.
- Robokids – a program previously delivered through funding by Toyota as part of our involvement in the Footscray Learning Precinct, Robokids provides students with the opportunity to engage in STEAM based robotics explorations across 3 sessions, which enhance curriculum outcomes in Digital Technologies, Science and Mathematics.
- The Workshop – Student Action Team leadership program.



Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF). Open to families who hold an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card or are asylum seekers. We will notify you via Compass when applications open during term one.
- State Schools Relief. A not for profit organisation supporting students experiencing hardship with provision of uniforms, shoes and educational resources.
- Payment plans for extra-curricular activities.
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing fund is used for families experiencing financial hardship to ensure their child/children can experience equity in access to learning experiences.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Josephine Diaco
Business Manager
Ph: 03 9687 2826 | Email: jo.diac@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$
Other Contributions	\$

Payment methods

Footscray City Primary School will use Compass to enable you to make your contribution online. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

We are also able to accept payments via BPay, EFTPOS, direct debit and in cash. Please contact the school for further details.

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) 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.