

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Beechworth Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Beechworth Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Background

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian 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 continue to offer the best possible education, facilities, and support for our students.

A free public education in Victoria means that Victorian government schools must teach the standard curriculum to all students for free. This covers Prep to year 12. Each school receives funding from the government to teach the standard curriculum.

This funding pays for:

- staff to do the teaching and run the school.
- the basic building and current facilities maintenance.
- extra support for students with a disability.

All schools in Victoria are funded by the Department of Education and Training (DET) based on the number of students who attend the school, and according to socioeconomic criteria (the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage-ICSEA).

As Beechworth Primary School ranks very high on the ICSEA Index, this directly affects our school funding as the higher the ranking, the less government funding we receive.

Parent Contribution Arrangements for 2024

In order for Beechworth Primary School to provide students with a wider variety of programs and resources, locally raised funds are critical to our school. The voluntary parent contributions are a very important way that we raise those funds.

Your generosity has allowed us to create an enriched learning environment that fosters growth and development and coordinate the best possible programs for our students. Financial contributions assist us with purchasing of art, music and physical education equipment and resources, enhances IT facilities and equipment, and enables us to include a wide variety of wellbeing programs, the swimming program (subsidised), Extension Mathematics, enhanced Language Support program and our first aid facilities.

A detailed schedule of parent contributions is presented over page. The contributions are classified as Curriculum and Other.

Beechworth Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents. We understand that the cost of living has increased, impacting our community in various ways. In consideration of the current economic climate, BPS leadership and School Council have decided to maintain the existing voluntary contribution amounts with no increase for 2024.

Payment Method

The Compass Course Confirmation / School Payments module allows you to pay online by card. Payment may be made in full or by establishing a payment plan. You can select this as an option in the payment section.

Financial Support for Families

We are mindful of the financial challenges many families may be facing. Beechworth Primary School prides itself on being an inclusive community where all students are provided with the best education regardless of their circumstances. Beechworth Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund *to eligible to Health Care Card Holders*
- State Schools Relief
- Parent Payment Plans via Compass

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

Samantha Hemphill

Ph: 03 5728 1066 | Email: samantha.hemphill@education.vic.gov.au

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

We want to express our gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our vibrant school community. This support continues to make a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Yours sincerely,

Sue McDonald - Principal

Kellie Sutherland - School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount Per student
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, craft materials • Mathematics – numeracy blocks, maths kits • English – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers • Sports – equipment, ribbons, materials • Science - equipment • Diary or my reading log Printing and Photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$100
IT Facilities and Equipment including classroom ICT shared devices	\$30
Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Assessments- My Numeracy & My Literacy (Grade 1 to 6 only) • Soundwaves online (Foundation to Grade 2 only) 	\$15 \$13
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Sports Victoria membership	\$5.00
School Assistance fund	\$10.00
First aid equipment	\$10.00
School grounds improvements	\$10.00
Compass	\$5.00
Sustainability Programs	\$10.00
Library donation (books)	\$20.00
Total Amount	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	
Beechworth 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 Camps, Excursions, Incursions and Interschool Sports. Consent and payment for Excursions, Camps and other activities will be communicated to parents via Compass closer to the event.	

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Payment methods



Payments will be available to made via the course confirmation and payment tab within compass. If you are having issues with login details please contact the office. If you are using the app the course confirmation alert will show up once the curriculum contributions have been made active. When using the web browser there will be the course confirmation alert or you have the option of clicking on the icon that looks like a rubix cube then selecting course confirmation and payment.



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.