

26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear parent/guardian,

Solway Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Solway Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction that fulfils the requirements of the 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, volunteering your time or making additional contributions. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Solway Primary School Council encourages all families to contribute towards improving our teaching and learning environment through parent payments of voluntary financial contributions. Working together with you, and as a community, our school can achieve far better outcomes for our students than if the school, works alone. The Voluntary Financial Contributions are a key part of ensuring that our students have access to the resources that will assist in achieving those better outcomes and ensuring that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

Being a Government School, Solway Primary receives funding from the Department of Education which enables the provision of all basic education requirements, including the salaries of staff and other operating costs. To supplement this, School Council asks our parents to maintain their strong commitment to supporting our children's educational outcomes, and the school financially, through the payment of three types of contributions: Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and Extra-Curricular Items and Activities.

- Requested **Curriculum Contributions** are for items that are directly used by students to improve their learning of the Victorian Curriculum, whether that be materials for science experiments and art, Apps for learning, or swimming lessons conducted by a local swimming school.
- Requested **Other Contributions** are for non-curriculum items and resources that support our student's learning, such as the provision of first aid equipment, membership to School Sports Victoria and wellbeing programs.
- Throughout the year, families are invited to purchase **Extra-curricular Items and Activities** to enhance student learning such as sporting activities, camps and in/excursions.

Throughout 2025 your contributions have allowed us to provide high quality education programs both in the classroom and supplementary support such the addition of science as a specialist subject, our new school values signage, the planned installation of new carpet in the Prep and Grade Two classrooms, and the installation of Football posts on the oval.

In 2026, we are hoping that voluntary contributions will assist us to provide additional Education Support staff in classrooms, replace the carpet in the 3/4 and 5/6 building and covering the basketball court. All purchases and decisions to allocate the voluntary contributions will be communicated to families and the Solway School Council throughout the year.

In 2025 we received approximately 82% of budgeted family contribution payments to the school. We are keen to see that continue to improve but also recognise that not everyone has the means to do so. Importantly, parent payments for Curriculum Contributions, and Other Contributions, are voluntary payments. You can choose to either pay the requested amount for each type of contribution or you can choose to pay another amount. If you choose to nominate the amounts to pay that is different to the amounts shown, please fill in the boxes with your chosen contribution amount.

### **Building and Library Fund**

We pride ourselves on the quality of our facilities which support our teaching and learning programs. The continued development and ongoing maintenance of the school buildings and grounds, and the provision of a safe and secure environment for students, is always our focus. Parents can claim the Building Fund and Library Fund donations as income tax deductions. We hope to use contributions to the building and library funds to upgrade the school's library furniture, repair water damage to roof and walls, additional line marking in the playground, resurface and potentially cover the basketball courts and replace the perimeter fence.

For more information on how these requested contributions will be used to improve outcomes for our students, please see the 2026 Parent Payment Request form and an overview of the Department's Parent Payments Policy attached below.

Yours sincerely,



Jess Symmons  
School Council President



David Rosser  
Principal

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper (\$40)</li> <li>• Science – chemicals (\$30)</li> <li>• Mathematics – numeracy blocks (\$50)</li> <li>• English – book boxes (\$50)</li> <li>• Sports – equipment (\$30)</li> <li>• Classroom resources and materials (\$40)</li> </ul>	\$250.00
Online subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numeracy (\$30)</li> <li>• Literacy (\$30)</li> </ul>	\$50.00
ICT devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets	\$70.00
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$25.00
<b>Total Curriculum Contributions</b>	<b>\$395.00</b>

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Sports Victoria affiliation	\$25.00
Student wellbeing programs	\$25.00
First aid equipment	\$25.00
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$25.00
Compass Software	\$25.00
<b>Total Other Contributions</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>

<b>Tax deductible contributions</b>	
<b>Building fund.</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure	\$165.00
<b>Library Fund.</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.	\$15.00
<b>Total Tax Deductible Contributions</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>

## **Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

Solway 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. All extra-curricular activities will be charged to families as they occur such as camps, excursions, and incursions

## **Financial Support for Families**

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment plans

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

Victoria Bonicelli – Business Manager

Ph: 03 9885 2421 | Email: [victoria.bonicelli@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:victoria.bonicelli@education.vic.gov.au)

## **Total**

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$395.00
Other Contributions	(Non-tax deductible)
Building & Library Fund	(Tax-deductible)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>

## **Payment methods**

Compass

## **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 Payments 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.