



30/11/22

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 2023.

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.

Parent contributions are used to supplement the government funding to ensure we are able to include specialist lessons such as Performing Arts and smaller class sizes, which we would like to prioritise in 2023. A decrease in parent contributions will impact school programs, we therefore seek families' support with respect to Voluntary Contributions in 2023, so that we can continue to deliver the outstanding education of which we are so proud.

A key factor in our success and the quality of our academic and co-curricular programs is the support we have had over many years from our community. Whether the support has been financial, through fundraising or volunteering your time, we thank all of the families who have made a contribution to our school. This support makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. Your contributions have allowed us to provide high quality education programs both in the classroom and supplementary support such as additional tutoring, extra professional development for teachers, upgrade the senior playground, maintain the oval, resurface the gym and Performing Arts Centre floor, painting and upkeep. In 2023, we are planning to create outdoor learning spaces by upgrading the third playground, located on Taylor Street.

Your contributions also supplement the Department of Education and Training (DET) funding provided for the purchase of resources to be used by your child throughout year. This includes:

Digital Technologies support

Solway continues to provide a rich curriculum supporting and utilising the latest technologies available for students and staff. The 1:1 iPad program in Years 1 – 6 requires ongoing technical support. Your contribution covers this, and the upgrading and maintenance of the school's hardware and infrastructure. This includes the purchase of smart TVs, interactive whiteboards, school notebooks, iPads, cameras, wireless communications, technical support and educational software. It supports programs relating to Robotics, Coding and Media Arts.

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. A considerable amount of time and expense is required to maintain the high standards of our Buildings and Grounds. To assist with this, the school contracts a maintenance person to attend to minor maintenance items, and a mowing contractor for care of grounds. Solway also employs tradespeople for specialist maintenance items and periodical safety audits such as plumbers, electricians, glaziers, arborist, etc. The constant cycle of refurbishment to ensure these standards are maintained and improved is enabled by the contributions of parents to the Building and Library Funds. Parents are able to claim the Building Fund and Library Fund donations as income tax deductions.

Yours sincerely,

Deb Brown
School Council President

Lyn Rodda
Principal

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Annual Amount per Student
<i>Classroom consumables (including book packs)</i>	\$120.00
<i>Other consumables – English, Maths, Science, Art, PE, Music, Japanese</i>	\$120.00
<i>Online Subscriptions per child</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Numeracy Subscriptions (Mathletics, Essential Assessment)</i> • <i>Literacy Subscriptions (Reading Eggs, Essential Assessment)</i> • <i>Administration subscriptions (SeeSaw, Compass)</i> 	\$80.00
<i>ICT – provision of devices (Laptops, electronic whiteboards, shared robotics equipment, cybersafety program and the employment of an additional Technician)</i>	\$130.00
<i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$35.00
<i>Student Wellbeing Programs including The Resilience Project workbook</i>	\$35.00
TOTAL CURRIUCULM CONTRIBUTIONS	\$520.00
Tax deductible contributions	
<i>Building fund.</i> <i>A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.</i>	\$140.00 (suggested)
<i>Library fund.</i> <i>A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.</i>	\$40.00 (suggested)
Total Amount	\$700.00

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 in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Due to the unknown nature of our current environment all extra- curricular activities will be charged to families as they occur such as camps, excursions, and incursions.

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.

YEAR 2023 – SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Family Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ **2023 Year Level:** _____

Child's Name: _____ **2023 Year Level:** _____

Child's Name: _____ **2023 Year Level:** _____

Child's Name: _____ **2023 Year Level:** _____

CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS - \$520 per student	\$
Donation to School Library (tax deductible) - \$40 per student (suggested amount)	\$
Donation to Building Fund (tax deductible) - \$140 per student (suggested amount)	\$
TOTAL	\$

- I wish to pay the full amount now
- I wish to pay in instalments
- I will make individual arrangements with the school Principal

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Payment Plans

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Lyn Rodda – Principal or Sarah McDonell –Business Manager. For further information on the Department’s Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Payment methods

Solway Primary School’s preferred method of payment is BPAY, due to high costs of Merchant Banking Fees.

Please quote the Biller Code 87361 and your family Reference Number (attached). Email or drop off the completed Parent Contributions 2023 – Payment Form and your BPAY Receipt No. to the Office at Solway.ps@education.vic.gov.au

We also accept credit card over the phone or cash and cheques may be dropped off at the office. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Solway Primary School’.

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.