

8 November, 2021

Dear parent/guardian,

South Melbourne Park Primary is looking forward to a COVID free year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of school's voluntary financial contributions for 2022.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, we seek your ongoing financial support to ensure that South Melbourne Park inspires the next generation of curious minds. I take this opportunity of thanking you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising, paying voluntary contributions or volunteering your time. Your continued support ensures that South Melbourne Park is a step ahead and a place where children love to be.

Parent financial contributions has allowed us to build the new play equipment, purchase books for the library and classrooms, provide digital learning equipment and the ability to offer a wide range of subjects and curriculum experiences. We also pride ourselves in creating a safe, clean learning environment by maintaining our state-of-the-art buildings and grounds.

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

Yours sincerely,



Rosemary Cosentino
Principal



Nicole Le Pou
School Council President

CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum, including:

- Computer applications where our students have their own individual password
- Everyday items that your child will use in the classroom to learn the essential curriculum such as art supplies, STEM equipment, performing arts equipment & resources, sports/PE programs, Passions Projects, LOTE (Spanish)

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Non-Curriculum items and activities to support the daily operation and objectives of South Melbourne Park Primary School making South Melbourne a place where children love to be.

- **Learning and Facilities:** such as class sets of learning materials and equipment. Costs in maintaining clean, modern facilities and grounds.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Tax deductible contributions made to towards South Melbourne Park Primary School

- **Building fund** (to support the proposed kitchen classroom project)
- **Library fund** (to support book purchases and other equipment)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES

South Melbourne Park Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance and 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. Details of these items and activities will be provided to students and families throughout the year.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund for eligible Healthcare Card holders
- State Schools Relief Fund for assistance with uniform items
- Welfare and support agencies that have established partnership arrangements with schools to provide further assistance students and their families.
- Payments by instalments via the Compass portal or Qkr app.

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

Ph: 03 9498 3396 | Email: south.melbourne.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Summary Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$390
Other Contributions	
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	TBA

PAYMENT METHODS

Parent contributions towards requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at South Melbourne Park Primary School. Payments can be made via the Compass Parent Portal, Qkr app or at any time at the School Office (no cash payments). **Payment in instalments is available.**

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, our Schools Refund 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.