

9 November, 2022

Dear parent/guardian,

South Melbourne Park Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of South Melbourne Park's voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

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 provides the best possible learning opportunities and inspires the next generation of curious minds. I would like to thank you all for your on-going support, whether that's through fundraising, financial 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/carers contributions make a significant difference to the quality of our programs. This financial support ensures that we can continue to provide the excellent range of facilities and resources for your children. Your support allows us to:

- provide high quality programs and specific subject materials and equipment for English, Mathematics, STEM, Visual & Performing Arts, Inquiry, LOTE (Spanish) and PE
- maintain and develop the school grounds and buildings
- provision and upkeep of our computer devices, peripherals to enhance learning opportunities
- maintain sufficient class sets of books for students to develop their reading skills
- provide hands on maths equipment i.e. materials for teaching purposes
- facilitate Literacy and Mathematics online digital subscriptions
- deliver a range of sporting equipment
- arrange for individual student supplies and class bulk supplies
- offer effective first aid for all students
- extensive collection of Library and Classroom reading materials
- Installation/ purchase of air conditioning in classrooms

We pride ourselves on creating a safe, clean, learning environment by maintaining our state-of-the-art buildings and grounds and for being able to provide the rich learning opportunities that foster our belief in developing the whole child.

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

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Arnold

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, well-being and support programs for students, first aid supplies & training.

### **TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Tax deductible contributions made to towards South Melbourne Park Primary School

- **Building fund** (to support the rollout of air-con across the school, upgrades & maintenance of school infrastructure)
- **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 (ie; excursions, incursions, camps, sports carnivals & events, additional swimming classes, school yearbook, graduation). 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](mailto:south.melbourne.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

### Summary Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$490
Other Contributions	\$300
Tax deductible Contributions	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (ie; excursions, incursions, camps, sports carnivals & events, additional swimming classes, school yearbook, graduation)	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.