



3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Merri River School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our 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.

The environment and resources that we enjoy today represent the contributions made by our parent/carer community over many years.

Parent/Carers voluntary contributions make 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 in 2021 allowed us to:

- Provide high quality programs and specific subject materials and equipment for: English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Music, Developmental Curriculum, Humanities and PE;
- Maintain and develop the school grounds;
- Ensure the upkeep of our computer devices to enhance learning opportunities;
- Maintain sufficient class sets of books for students to develop their reading skills;
- Provide hands on equipment i.e- measuring materials for teaching purposes;
- Facilitate Literacy and Mathematics online digital subscriptions;
- Deliver a range of sporting equipment and access to sporting facilities
- Arrange for individual student supplies and class bulk supplies;
- Offer effective First Aid for all students;
- Run specialised school programs such as Hands on Learning, Connect, Woodwork and Food For Life that would otherwise be impossible to run;



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[www.merrirs.vic.edu.au](http://www.merrirs.vic.edu.au)



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

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Roche – **Acting Principal**  
Merri River School

Russell McLaren – **School Council President**  
Merri River School

If you wish to make a voluntary contribution which would be greatly appreciated, please use bank details below making sure that you

- **put your student's name as a reference** so it can be receipted to you and
- **notify the office** on which category you would like your payment put under.



Parent/Carers Name..... Student's name.....

Category	Amount
Curriculum Contributions	\$ 300.00
Other Contributions	\$ 30.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$ 20.00

**Bank:-** Commonwealth  
**Account Name:-** Merri River School Official  
**B.S.B:-** 0633 533  
**Account Number:-** 1009 3939



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<b>Curriculum Contributions</b> - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Classroom consumables, materials &amp; equipment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper etc. \$20.00</li> <li>• Technology – wood, tools &amp; materials \$30.00</li> <li>• Food For Life – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc. \$100.00</li> <li>• Sports – equipment repairs / Bike Education / Sailing \$30.00</li> <li>• Sensory items / equipment \$10.00</li> <li>• Music – equipment / repairs \$10.00</li> </ul>	\$200.00
<b>Online Subscriptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasaw</li> <li>• Xuno</li> <li>• Apps from app store</li> </ul>	\$30.00
<b>ICT Devices</b> – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets	\$20.00
<b>Communication tools</b> - assistive technology devices, displays	\$10.00
<b>Printing and photocopying</b> of worksheets and learning materials	\$30.00
<b>Whole school events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interschool Sports Entry and Transport</li> </ul>	\$10.00
<b>Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities</b>	
<b>First aid and hygiene equipment</b>	\$10.00
<b>School grounds maintenance and improvements</b>	\$10.00
<b>Student Wellbeing Programs</b>	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$330.00</b>

### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Merri River 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.

<b>Extra-Curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purchase (Please tick)</b>
<b>School magazine/ yearbook</b>	\$20.00	
<b>School camps &amp; Excursions</b>	<b>TBA</b>	
<b>TOTAL Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b>		<b>\$20.00</b>





## Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

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

The Principal

**Ph:** 03 55 611 711

**Email:** [merri.river.school@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:merri.river.school@education.vic.gov.au)

Payment methods:

- **Cash** directly to the office.
- **Centrepay** - the school is registered with Centrelink to receive payments from families via their Centrepay system which is only available to holders of relevant current Centrelink benefit cards.  
Please contact our office admin if you need help to set up payments using this method.
- **Direct Deposit**

**Bank:-** Commonwealth

**Account Name:-** Merri River School Official

**B.S.B:-** 0633 533

**Account Number:-** 1009 3939

## 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.



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## Parent Payments Requests

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:-

**Curriculum Contributions** (previously known as Essential Student Learning Items) support items and activities that help deliver fundamental curriculum or subject learning e.g. General classroom materials and equipment

**Other Contributions** support the school's operation and function more generally e.g. Parent communication tools and school building enhancements

Payments for **Extra-Curricular Items and Activities** provide for items and activities over and above what is needed to deliver fundamental curriculum learning. These *user-pays* contributions enhance the schooling experience for students e.g. Optional camps, excursions and events

### Curriculum Contributions

- Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper etc.
- Technology – gardening tool, plants etc.
- Food Tech – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc.
- Mathematics – numeracy blocks
- Sports – equipment
- Sensory items
- Boardmaker
- Reading Eggs
- ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets
- PODD books, assistive technology devices, displays
- printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials
- Athletics carnival - entry and transport

### Other Contributions

- *School Sports Victoria membership*
- *Student wellbeing programs*
- *First aid and hygiene equipment*
- *School grounds maintenance and improvements*

### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

- School magazine/ yearbook
- School camps
- Primary swimming lessons

This is an optional and additional program to the swimming and water safety program that we provide students for free as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This is designed to further support students with their progress to learn to swim.

