



November 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

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 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Parent/Carers voluntary contributions make significant difference to the quality of our programs. Merri River School is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* with the result that any donations made by you will be tax deductible. To be tax deductible, your donation needs to be made voluntarily. We have suggested an amount to be contributed under "Curriculum Contributions" and "Other Contributions" below, but please feel free to contribute an alternative amount. Amounts paid under "Extra-Curricular Items and Activities" are not donations and are not tax deductible.

This financial support ensures that we can continue to provide the excellent range of facilities and resources for your children. Your support in 2023 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;

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

Yours sincerely,

Dean Clements **Principal**  
Merri River School

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



+61 3 55611 711

189 Wollaston Road, Warrnambool 3280

merri.river.school@education.vic.gov.au



www.merrirs.vic.edu.au



<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 - These are provided on a user-pays basis.**

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 to deliver the Curriculum.

<b>Extra-Curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purchase (Please tick)</b>
<b>School magazine/ yearbook</b>	\$30.00	
<b>School camps &amp; Excursions</b>	<b>TBA</b>	
<b>TOTAL Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b>		<b>\$30.00</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 – **Dean Clements**

**Ph:** 03 55 611 711

**Email:** dean.clements@education.vic.gov.au

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.

### 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**

<b>Bank:-</b>	Commonwealth
<b>Account Name:-</b>	Merri River School Official
<b>B.S.B:-</b>	063 533
<b>Account Number:-</b>	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.



+61 3 55611 711

189 Wollaston Road, Warrnambool 3280

merri.river.school@education.vic.gov.au



www.merrirs.vic.edu.au



## PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY



### 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.

