



22nd January 2024

Dear parent/guardian,

Wedge Park Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Wedge Park Primary School's 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. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through contributions, fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a significant difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to offer a wider range of subjects and special curriculum experiences, specialist programs, enhanced digital learning opportunities, faster WIFI and internet.

The school makes every effort to keep the cost of items purchased and activities at a minimum and sources these products from the most economical supplier possible.

The school understands that many of our families are currently experiencing financial hardship due to the current cost of living crisis. We are grateful to all families who make a voluntary contribution to support the education of their child or children. We have decided to keep the voluntary contributions at \$160 for a third consecutive year, absorbing the increased cost from suppliers. A contribution of \$20 for each student currently enrolled would equate to \$19,880.

Please find the contribution schedule below.

Our school website <https://wedgepark.vic.edu.au/> has the link to the Parent Payment Policy for your reference. For further information on the Department's Parent Payment Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Financial Support for Families

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

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Instalment payments
- State schools' relief
- Centrepay

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact our front office on 9743 7595.

Payment Methods:

We would appreciate families making their contributions and payments as soon as possible in the new school year. Contributions and payments can be made using our preferred payment method via the Compass portal - Course confirmation/Payments, other payment methods are cash or Bpay.

Refunds:

All refund requests must be made in writing. A request for a refund does not automatically equate to a full refund of monies paid.

- **Curriculum Contributions:**
Where payment has been received for the curriculum contributions and the student is exiting the school, a pro-rata refund, dependent on the number of terms the student has been enrolled at the school for, may be applicable.
- **Extra-Curricular items and Activities:**
Students withdrawing from camps, excursions and extra-curriculum activities can request a refund. A refund (less any non-refundable deposit) will be payable to the parent/guardian after the event has occurred, if the withdrawal from the activity is due to unavoidable circumstances i.e. illness. Proof may be required e.g. medical certificate.

Where the school is charged a 'group fee' as opposed to a 'per head fee', a refund cannot be calculated until all associated costs have been met.

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

Yours sincerely,



Brian Slatter
Principal



Megan Snelgrove
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper • Music - new instruments and maintenance of current instruments • Japanese – project books, practical work consumables e.g. sushi making ingredients • Literacy – book boxes, cover paper, classroom libraries, spelling mastery • Numeracy – graph books, workbooks, protractors, compass', counters • Science – workbooks, ingredients for experiments e.g. slime • Sport - new sport equipment and maintenance of current equipment • Class supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ copy paper ○ cover paper ○ laminating sheets ○ coloured paper ○ student workbooks ○ whiteboards and markers ○ Stationary including; glue, pencils, pencil case, crayons, textas, highlighters, permanent markers • Student diary 	\$130.00
Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Assessment • Decodable Readers Australia • Little Learners (P-2) • Spelling Mastery (3-6) 	\$15.00
Technology Equipment Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipads • TVs 	\$15.00
Total Amount	\$160.00

Extracurricular Items and Activities

Wedge Park Primary School offers a range of 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.

Further information will be provided throughout the year about each of these events on Compass.

Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities	Tax deductible?	Suggested Voluntary Contribution per family		
Buildings & Grounds Fund Building & Grounds Fund these funds will help to ensure we are able to provide further opportunities and experiences for students across all areas of the school.	No	\$20	\$50	\$100
Grounds Projects Grounds projects Fund will go towards removal and laying of new turf in the caged astro area.	No	\$20	\$50	\$100

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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.