PARENT CONTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS 2027

Dear Families,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support South Melbourne Primary school for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

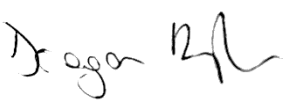
South Melbourne Primary School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact the office: 03 9935 9399 or southmelbourne.ps@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number: 03 9935 9399. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Creece
Principal



Dragan Rajak
School Council President

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	**Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less**
Prep to Grade 3	$650.00
Grade 4 to Grade 6	$800.00

Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	**Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less**
Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	$200.00
Library fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements	$50.00

Extra-curricular items and activities

South Melbourne Primary School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events like formals.

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)
Grade 3/4 Camp	**$470.00**	**TBD**
Grade 5/6 Camp	**$470.00**	**TBD**
Incursions/Excursions		**$120.00**
Grade 6 Graduation	**$25.00**	**TBD**

Financial help for families

South Melbourne Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms -** delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Secondhand uniform store / sales
- Camp Fee Relief Fund – funded by community donations, this fund helps families who need assistance with camp fees.

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact the office: 03 9935 9399 or southmelbourne.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Our school is cashless. We cannot accept cash payments. Payments can be made by any of the following methods:

- EFTPOS at school reception
- Compass (online): pay in full as a lump sum
- Compass (online): set up an instalment plan
- CentrePay: regular deductions from your Centrelink payments
- Direct Deposit (please contact the school for details)
- BPAY (please contact the School for your Family Reference Number).

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

Refunds

Voluntary contributions are non-refundable.

Parent requests for refunds for extra-curricular items and activities are subject to the discretion of the school and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether any costs have been incurred, the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information.

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's Parent Contributions policy.