

Ashley Park

Primary School

14 November 2022

Dear Families

Ashley Park Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our 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, 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 fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

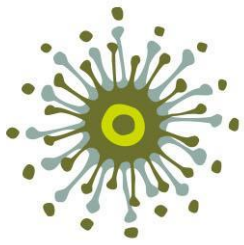
Within our school this support has allowed us to provide an enriched learning and teaching program for every student and is highly valued by our school community. The commitment from parents to contribute benefits students and results in improved achievement outcomes, wellbeing and engagement in learning. At Ashley Park Primary School, we design and develop learning and teaching programs drawing on the best educational knowledge and practices and strive to offer broad enriched opportunities to students that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum and what is provided for by Government funding.

Please find following an explanation of the requested contributions. For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Kind Regards

Keren Barro
Principal

Clinton Fullgrave
School Council President



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Curriculum Contributions

These are support items and activities that help deliver fundamental curriculum or subject learning.

These items include:

- Materials including text books and student stationery
- Materials for learning and teaching (e.g. cooking, art work, clay)

At Ashley Park Primary School, all stationery items are provided for each learning community relevant to their year level. Items are replenished as necessary throughout the year. Using this method, we are able to purchase items in large quantities and obtain high quality materials at competitive prices. Our school only requests contributions for items that we believe add value to the school experience for students.

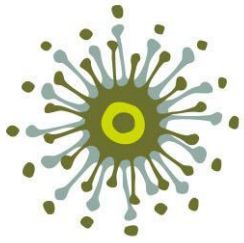
Other Contributions

Ashley Park Primary School continues to welcome your voluntary contributions to support our school. These type of other contributions are categorised under two headings:-

1. A General Voluntary contribution: This goes towards all of our school's important priorities for 2023 as well as providing additional activities and services for all students.
2. A tax-deductible contribution to our Building Fund: This tax-deductible contribution supports renovations, improvements and upgrades and maintenance of school infrastructure.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

These non-essential materials and services are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program and are offered to all students. These optional extras are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents and guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them. Examples include excursions, incursions and camps. At Ashley Park Primary School, we do not include any of these in our annual Parent Payment Contributions.

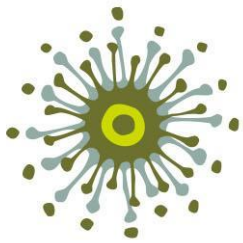


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Please be assured that Ashley Park Primary School makes every effort to keep contribution requests to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Community consumables, materials & equipment</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Student stationery supplies – for the entire year</i> <i>Among other things, these include:-</i> <i>writing books, project books, scrap books, reading journals, targeted handwriting books, colouring materials, pens/pencils, scissors, sharpeners, rulers and glue sticks : \$25 per term</i>	\$100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Specialist Programs : \$15 per term</i>	\$ 60
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Inquiry : \$5 per term</i>	\$ 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Online subscriptions : \$5 per term</i>	\$ 20
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$200
Other Contributions - non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>General Contribution</i>	\$
Tax deductible contributions	
<i>Building fund.</i> <i>A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure</i>	\$



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Payment Methods

- Payment by COMPASS – preferred option
- Payment by EFTPOS or Cash – at the office

Families can choose to opt into instalment payments (flexible payment arrangements) if they wish, which can be set up automatically via COMPASS. The suggested instalments consist of 10 equal payments per student as follows:-

Friday 27 th January	Friday 14 th April
Friday 10 th February	Friday 28 th April
Friday 24 th February	Friday 12 th May
Friday 3 rd March	Friday 26 th May
Friday 17 th March	Friday 2 nd June

Financial Support for Families

Ashley 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
- State Schools Relief (SSR)

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

Kylie Sayer - Ph: 03 8776 0200 | Email: kylie.sayer@education.vic.gov.au

Refunds

Ashley Park Primary School will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual circumstances. Generally, we will not be able to refund payments made for items purchased or costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred to a third party. For example, camp costs when a child becomes unwell and cannot attend in circumstances where the payment has already been made or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will make this clear to parents at the time of payment.

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) 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.