



30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear parent/guardian,

Highvale Primary School is looking forward to the upcoming school year and would like to advise you of our school's voluntary financial contributions for 2024. You will note that contributions have increased slightly in the Prep – Year 3 levels, which is due to increased costs from our suppliers of online learning subscriptions. We are pleased that despite these same inflationary pressures, no cost increases need to be passed on to our Year 4 – Year 6 levels.

Furthermore, we remain proud of the fact that Highvale Primary School has the lowest parent contribution fee amongst schools in the surrounding area despite remaining one of the highest achievers.

#### WHAT CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD

Our school relies heavily on curriculum contributions to allow us to provide students with the following:

- digital learning including on-line learning subscriptions (i.e. Mathletics, Reading Egg, Essential Assessments, Seesaw etcetera).
- the upkeep of technologies (i.e. Robotics, interactives and devices and materials for experiments).
- materials and equipment to support classroom programs.
- consumables for both STEAM specialist programs, Physical Education, Performing Arts and both Languages programs, Mandarin and German.

#### WHAT OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD

Payment of other contributions allows us to ensure that we can provide students with the following:

- Student Wellbeing support
- Library book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource
- School playgrounds maintenance and improvements
- Maintenance and renovations of school buildings
- First aid equipment

***Highvale Primary School has, in the past, been well supported by parents making this contribution. We are hoping this tradition continues in the future so our students / your children can benefit from the extras we believe are necessary to provide the quality education we are proud of delivering.***

Yours sincerely,

Highvale Primary School Council

#### **Financial Support for Families**

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

- *State Schools' Relief* provides financial support for eligible families to purchase clothing/uniforms at a reduced rate
- *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund* provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact Rebecca Foot on 03 9887 8000, or email [rebecca.foot@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.foot@education.vic.gov.au).

# 2024 YEAR 1 VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Curriculum Contributions

### Materials to support Standard Curriculum items for classroom program

Classroom consumables, materials, and equipment

Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials

### Online Learning Subscriptions (Digital programs)

Seesaw

Mathletics

Reading Eggs & Express

Essential Assessments (Numeracy & Literacy)

Digital PM Readers (Years P – 3)

Provision and upkeep of technologies and peripherals and Science consumables for student use (for e.g. robotics, interactives and devices, experiments).

### Specialist Subject Curriculum Consumables

Consumables, materials, and equipment to support both STEAM programs, Performing Arts, Physical Education and both Languages programs, Mandarin and German

\$166.53

## Other Contributions (suggested amounts)

### **Student Wellbeing Contribution**

This contributes towards the cost of specialists at school to further support student learning and wellbeing ie. Speech pathologists, psychologists, student support workers beyond the basic provision of DET.

\$50.00

### **Library Contribution (Tax deductible)**

This will assist us purchase new resources for our junior and senior libraries so that resources can be updated and students can use and borrow quality, attractive texts beyond the basic provision of DET

\$50.00

### **Building Fund (Tax deductible)**

Annual facilities funds received from the Department of Education are provided to assist schools to maintain buildings to a basic 'fair' condition. Voluntary contributions assist the school to make improvements to maintain our buildings beyond a 'fair' rating.

\$50.00

### **Digital Technology Contribution**

This provides the opportunity for the school to enhance student learning and engagement through the acquisition of important digital technologies ie. Green screen, interactive smart boards etc.

\$20.00

### **Working Bee contribution**

We appreciate that some families can support our school by attending Working Bees every term, however, if your family is unable to attend Working Bees, we request a voluntary contribution towards the costs associated with general upkeep and minor maintenance to provide a safe, attractive and clean environment. This is to close the gap between the school's needs and the basic provision from DET.

\$15.00

### **First Aid Contribution**

This contributes towards the cost of purchasing bandaids, ice packs, bandages, tissues, swabs for cleaning wounds, vomit bags, gauze pads, alcohol wipes etc.

\$5.00

## Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Highvale Primary School offers a range of excursions, incursions, sporting activities and camps that broaden the learning 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. Student are encouraged to participate fully in these programs.

# 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

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.