

2026 Parent Payments

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Malvern Central School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning. We are writing to advise you of the school's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. However, we do need the support of families to ensure we can deliver the best possible learning outcomes for students.

For 2026, we are requesting:

- *Curriculum and Other Contributions: \$755 (comprising \$640 curriculum contribution plus \$115 for essential supplementary items)*

After providing families with a one-year holiday from the \$115 supplementary fee, we need to reinstate it for 2026 to cover the rising costs of digital devices, first aid and hygiene supplies, and STEM and wellbeing programs.

The School Council has worked hard to keep increases at an absolute minimum despite high inflation over recent years. In fact, our total curriculum contribution for 2025 was lower than in 2024, and we have maintained the core curriculum contribution at \$640 for 2026. We have only reinstated the supplementary fee to ensure we can continue providing essential resources and programs for our students.

In addition to curriculum contributions, families can choose to make tax-deductible donations to our Building Fund and/or Library Fund. Without continued contributions to these funds, projects such as landscaping of the Park St colourful playground and replacement of the turf at both campuses would not be possible. Parents can claim these donations as income tax deductions.

Being a Government School, Malvern Central receives funding from the Department of Education for basic education requirements, including staff salaries and operating costs. Your voluntary contributions go directly to our school to supplement this funding and enable us to provide enhanced learning opportunities.

- *Curriculum Contributions support items that directly improve student learning of the Victorian Curriculum, such as materials for science experiments and art, and online numeracy and literacy platforms*
- *Other Contributions support non-curriculum items including first aid supplies, hygiene products, wellbeing programs*

We invite you to read the attached document showing how voluntary fees are spent and the programs they support.

Over the years, your generous contributions have enabled us to provide high-quality education programs, extra professional development for teachers, as well as community planting and landscaping, fresh painting and air conditioner upgrades, amongst other things.

We understand that not everyone has the means to contribute the full requested amount. You can choose to pay the requested amount for each type of contribution, or you can nominate another amount that works for your family. The fee is set on the basis of the parents contributing, and without these contributions, the School will not be able to meet all of the planned expenditure.

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

We want to thank you for all your support, whether through financial contributions, fundraising, or volunteering your time. Working together as a community, our school can achieve far better outcomes for our students. Your support allows us to create innovative and vibrant learning environments that meet high community expectations and ensure continued high levels of student achievement.

We are grateful for the generous voluntary contributions from our engaged parent community.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The signature on the left is in blue ink and appears to read 'Imogen Lippiatt'. The signature on the right is in blue ink and appears to read 'Bronwen Bock'.

*Imogen Lippiatt
Principal*

*Bronwen Bock
School Council President*

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Improved classroom consumables, materials & equipment (including but not limited to) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stationery and other consumables for the classrooms (\$240.00) Flat file, document wallet, zip pockets, coloured markers set, coloured pencils set, crayon set, whiteboard marker, learner/graphite pencils, sharpener, scissors, erasers, ruler, glue sticks / PVA glue, activity books, scrapbooks, ruled exercise books, dotted-thirds books, exercise books, little whiteboard, display books, highlighter sets, HB pencils, ballpoint pens, protractor, maths grid book, graph paper books, photocopying for the classroom, coloured paper, assorted craft supplies Additional Literacy and Numeracy consumables (\$35.00) Reader/class book sets, book boxes, calculators, maths kits and resources Stationery and Consumables for science, cooking and inquiry (\$55.00) Stationery and consumables for the specialist subjects, including Performing Arts, Japanese, Physical Education and Visual Arts (\$85.00) Classroom consumables, sporting equipment, specialist specific learning materials and immersive experience equipment 	\$415
Extra Digital Subscriptions and Assessments for Online Standardised testing (\$95.00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathletics, Reading Eggs, BrainPOP, Nelson Readers Subscription, Kahoot, Seesaw, Essential Assessment, Drama Note, SCIS Data, Inquisitive, Teacher Start, Twinkle, Soft Link Library, and other app licenses 	\$95
Increased provisions and upkeep of school devices (\$130.00) Enhanced digital learning opportunities for students including a 1 to 2 ratio of Chromebooks, iPads, classrooms touch screen TVs for teaching, device configuration, storage, replacement of broken or damaged equipment, upgrade of Wi-Fi through the school	\$130
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$640
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
More leased digital devices for students and parent communication tools Compass communication systems and Kiosk, device maintenance, server/system costs, photocopiers	\$50
Student wellbeing programs / Enhanced student support and programs Wellbeing programs for students in the classroom as well as specialised programs, leadership programs, Student Voice and Agency, Literacy and Numeracy student support programs	\$35
Quality first aid equipment, hygiene, and sanitation supplies for classrooms Sanitation supplies for classrooms and students including sanitiser, hand wash, paper towel, antibacterial spray and disinfectant wipes, sunscreen, all first aid equipment for school and excursions	\$30
Total Other Contributions	\$115
Tax deductible contributions	

Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure (Suggested - \$150)	\$ Parent Choice
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support upgrades, maintenance and purchase of new books and equipment for the library (Suggested - \$50)	\$ Parent Choice
Total Suggested Contribution	\$200

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Malvern Central School offers a range of optional 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. The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
<i>School magazine/ yearbook</i>	<i>\$TBA</i>
<i>School camp (See requesting parent payments for camps and excursions one-page overview for more information)</i>	<i>\$TBA</i>
<i>Interschool sports program</i>	<i>\$TBA</i>
<i>Excursion to be scheduled</i>	<i>\$TBA</i>
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$TBA

Financial Support for Families

Malvern Central 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)
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Parents for Parents Assistance

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

*Imogen Lippiatt
Ph: 03 8823 9500
Email: Imogen.lippiatt@education.vic.gov.au*

Total

Category		Suggested Totals
Curriculum Contributions	<i>(Non-tax deductible)</i>	\$ 640
Other Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Fund (Tax-deductible) – Suggested \$150• Library Fund (Tax-deductible) – Suggested \$50 <p><i>Total suggested \$200.00 (Tax-deductible)</i></p>	
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	<i>(Non-tax deductible)</i>	\$115
Total		\$755

Payment methods

- *Compass*
- *EFT at the office*

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 Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information. Refunds for nonattendance to event will be made if no cost is incurred and payment was above \$20. Refunds below this level need to be requested by the family.

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) 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	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.