

December 2025

Dear Families,

As we begin planning for the year ahead, we would like to advise you about Ferny Creek Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2026 and how these funds directly support the exceptional learning environment we are committed to providing for every child at our school. Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Parent payments play a significant role in helping us maintain a high quality educational program well beyond the standard resources provided. These contributions allow us to offer a rich and varied curriculum, ensure our classrooms remain well-resourced, and continue providing opportunities for support, extension, and exploration across a wide range of subjects and experiences.

Your generosity helps us:

- Maintain and expand much-loved programs such as our Veggie Patch and sustainability initiatives
- Provide access to high-quality learning materials, digital tools and hands-on resources across all year levels.
- Offer a broad range of specialist and enrichment experiences that strengthen student engagement and achievement.
- Create and maintain beautiful, functional learning spaces that inspire curiosity, creativity, and community pride.

This year, we have seen what is possible when our school community works together, contributing in meaningful ways to enhance our learning environment. With your support, we can continue this shared effort to add value to our beautiful school and ensure every student receives the very best we can provide.

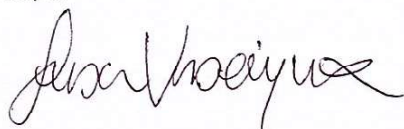
We understand that every family's circumstances are different, and we deeply appreciate any level of contribution. Whether through time, participation, or financial support, every action makes a difference.

Please find attached our 2026 Voluntary Financial Contributions Schedule outlining the breakdown for each area. For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

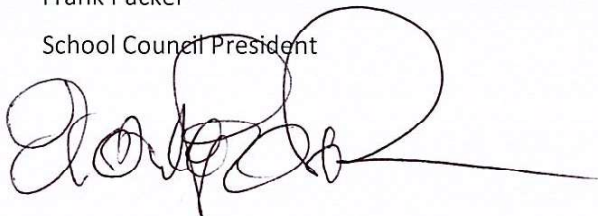
Thank you for your ongoing partnership and for helping us create a strong, vibrant, and nurturing school community where all children can thrive.

Warm regards,

Susan Vissenjoux
Principal



Frank Packer
School Council President



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment • The Arts • Mathematics • English • Physical Education • Discovery Centre (previously STEM) • Digital Learning e.g. Mathletics, Friendology • ICT devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets • Printing and photocopying of learning materials • Whole School events	\$310.00
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$310.00

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Veggie Patch/Kitchen Garden	\$ 20.00
Compass	\$ 30.00
School grounds maintenance and improvements. Suggested \$80 per family	\$ 80.00
Total Other Contributions	\$130.00
SUB TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$440.00

Tax deductible contributions	
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support the purchasing of resources and equipment throughout the school to enhance student learning.	\$
FINAL TOTAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS	\$

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

Ferny Creek Primary 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.

No payment is required for these activities at this time. Permission forms and payment requests for events will be posted on Compass throughout the school year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
School Camp years 3-6 Term 4 2026	TBA
Year 5 & 6 Interschool sports program	TBA
Swimming Program Term 4	TBA
Other Excursions & Experiences to be scheduled throughout the year	TBA
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to eligible Health Care Card holders
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Individual payment plans are available on Compass

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Colene Farrell, Business Manager on 9755 1522 or Email: ferny.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

- Compass
- Cash
- EFTPOS

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.

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

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.