



Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Bendigo Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Bendigo Primary 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. 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 is 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 makes a significant difference to the quality of our programs. It has allowed us to:

- Continue to offer our students a broad range of experiences including digital learning experiences through our one-to-one netbook program,
- Provide high quality learning supported by an excellent up to date range of resources in our classrooms and specialist lessons,
- Offer extra curriculum activities such as camps, excursions and incursions that inspire and excite our students.

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

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Tavener
Principal

Michelle Baker
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i> • Art – clay, canvas, coloured paper (\$5.00) • Science – consumables (\$5.00) • Mathematics – numeracy consumables (\$5.00) • English – book boxes (\$5.00) • Sports – equipment (\$5.00)	\$25.00
<i>Online subscriptions</i> • Essential Assessments & Initialit (\$15.00)	\$15.00
<i>ICT devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</i>	\$20.00
<i>Whole school events</i> • Gymnastics Program (\$40.00)	\$40.00
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$100.00

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>Student wellbeing programs</i>	\$10.00
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements</i>	\$15.00
Total Other Contributions	\$25.00

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

Bendigo 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. In 2026 all students will attend a major excursion, the cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year:

- Foundation/Grade 1 Stay and Play, November (estimated \$15)
- Grade 2/3/4 TBC
- Grade 5/6 Twisted Science Excursion

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Major Excursion to be scheduled (estimated: \$50)	TBC
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$XX

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$100.00
Other Contributions <i>(Non-tax deductible)</i>	\$25.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$TBC
Total	\$125.00

Educational items for students to own

Book list information will be emailed separately to families. The school recommends you purchase from Education Plus for your child to individually own and use. This can also be found on our website.

Financial Support for Families

Bendigo 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)
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

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

Business Manager - Lou Bray

Ph: 03 5443 6411 | Email: louise.bray@education.vic.gov.au

Principal - Carolyn Tavener

Ph: 03 5443 6411 | Email: Carolyn.tavener@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

We provide the following payment options for families to ensure a smooth transition into 2026.

- EFTPOS in the office,
- Direct Deposit (please use SURNAME/Fees as payment reference)
BSB: 033688 Account Number: 931292

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.