

Dear Parents and Carers,

Huntingdale Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Huntingdale Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2026. We have made every effort to keep our voluntary contributions unchanged, recognising the ongoing cost-of-living pressures faced by families. However, due to rising costs in essential subscriptions and educational memberships, a modest increase of \$10 has been applied 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. 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.

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

Why should I pay for the Curriculum Contributions?

It is important that families pay for the curriculum contributions as the school has arranged for all students to have access to online learning programs such as Essential Assessment and Mathletics, which are important tools for their education, a diary which aids communication between home and school and the necessary books and stationery they need to complete work in.

Why should I pay voluntary contributions?

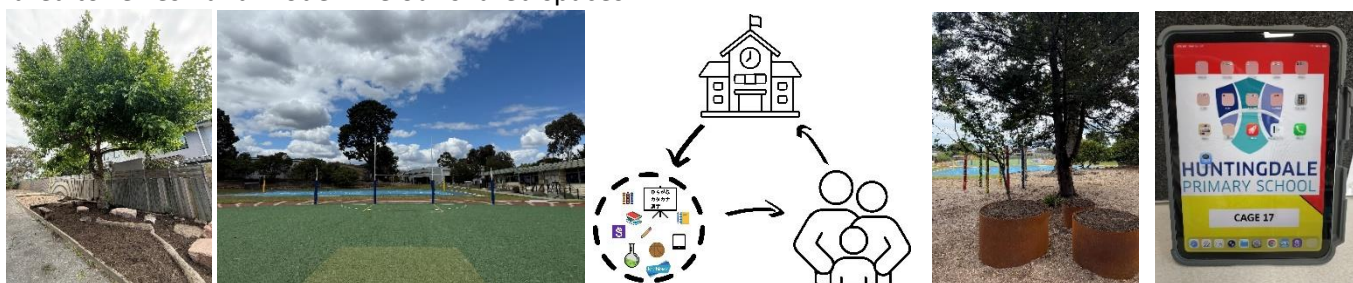
By paying these contributions, it allows the school to provide the best educational opportunities for your children and purchase items to enhance their learning.

What has my voluntary contributions paid for?

In 2025, we have been able to spend your contributions in several ways:

School Projects

This year, we've undertaken a number of exciting projects aimed at enhancing student learning and enriching the overall school experience. These initiatives include the purchase of 50 new iPads to support digital learning, the installation of safety padding on the AFL goalposts to ensure student wellbeing during sport, and extensive garden and landscaping improvements across the school grounds. In addition, we've installed a new PA system to improve communication throughout the school and laid new carpets in the administration area to refresh and modernize our shared spaces.



What we intend on doing in 2026- Looking ahead to 2026, we are continuing our efforts to develop a covered outdoor learning area that will provide flexible, all-weather learning opportunities, while also progressively upgrading our play areas to ensure they remain engaging, inclusive, and safe for all students.

Information Technology

In 2025, the school continued to support the initial stages of the Design Thinking curriculum to enhance students' problem-solving skills by offering coding and robotics projects and purchase digital tools to support 3D modelling and printing.

What we need in 2026- We aim to continue to update our fleet of devices as well as add additional shelving and storage.

Bilingual Materials

To give our students the best possible opportunity to learn Japanese, our school invests heavily in creating high-quality learning resources. Your voluntary contributions help fund the development of materials such as flashcards, games, books, and worksheets that support bilingual education. Our dedicated teachers and aides are also working on producing online books to enhance accessibility. As many of our Japanese-language books are sourced internationally, purchasing them can be quite costly, making your support all the more valuable

What we need in 2026- With your help, we're able to invest in more Japanese books and materials that enhance our students' learning experience.

STEM Room

With your contributions, we have been able to purchase equipment and cooking materials for students to use in STEM specialist classes and the Science Extension Program.

What we need in 2026- We're aiming to expand our robotics equipment so that students have greater opportunities to explore coding, computational thinking, and hands-on technology learning.

We hope all of our families are able to make some contributions in 2026 to support the high-quality education your child receives at Huntingdale Primary School.

Regards,

Principal and The Parent members of School Council

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i> • Art - paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper- \$35 • Science - chemicals- \$28 • English - book boxes- \$18 • Sports – equipment & memberships- \$27 • Bilingual Resources - Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji charts, class libraries- \$35 • Stationery items - for example pens, pencils, exercise books- \$100 • Student Diary-\$12	\$255
<i>Online subscriptions</i> • Essential Assessment- \$20, Mathletics- \$29, See-Saw- \$11, PAT- \$5	\$65
<i>ICT devices - provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</i>	\$25
<i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$25
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$370

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	
<i>Bilingual Donation</i>	\$65
<i>Information Technology Donation</i>	\$65
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements</i>	\$55
<i>STEM</i>	\$55
Total Other Contributions	\$240

Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund- A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure (suggested amounts)	\$100 or \$50 or \$20
Library fund- A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource (suggested amounts)	\$100 or \$50 or \$20

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Huntingdale Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling 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. The cost of these will be advised during the school year to the relevant year levels. This includes activities such as 3-6 camp, excursions, incursions, interschool sport, graduation and swimming.

Financial Support for Families

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

- *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (contact the school)*
- *State School Relief (contact the school)*
- *MoneySmart.gov.au* <https://moneysmart.gov.au/managing-debt/urgent-help-with-money>
- *Services Australia* <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/crisis-and-special-help>
- *Salvation Army Financial Assistance* <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/financial-assistance/>

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

Natalie Kerassitis - Business Manager

Ph: 03 9544 2318 | **Email:** natalie.kerassitis@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Voluntary School Contributions can be made via Compass or directly at the school 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 our school Refund Policy.

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.