

2026 Parent Payment Arrangements

28 Oct 2025

Dear Families -

Hillsmeade Primary School is looking forward to another successful year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Hillsmeade 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 has allowed us to provide:

- Specialist software to support student learning and assessment in literacy and numeracy.
- ICT Devices for junior years and students who are unable to provide their own.
- Our wide specialist subject program (including Music, Performing Arts, STEM, Visual Art, Mandarin, DigiTech, Media Arts, and Physical Education),
- Significant improvements to the grounds, including the synthetic oval, amphitheatre, senior playground, and the upgraded Year 2 playground, Ninja Warrior course, the Gaga Pit and the new Sandpit.

In 2026 we are continuing the way we supply book packs to students. Book packs will be delivered to the school, and teachers will give your child the book pack items in the first week of school in 2026. All book pack items will be labelled in class and will remain at school. We are requesting a voluntary contribution of \$50 per student to cover the cost of supplying these book packs to students.

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

Yours sincerely,

Linda Buckeridge

Principal

Carmen Powell

School Council President



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Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Book Pack provided for each student <i>In 2026 the school will be providing all students with a full book pack of required per-student classroom stationery (pens, pencils, books, rulers, scissors, headphones, etc).</i>	\$50
Online Learning Subscriptions <i>These are specialised software packages to support the teaching and assessment.</i>	\$20
Shared Classroom Stationery <i>Over and above the stationery provided in student book packs.</i>	\$20
ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets <i>The school provides devices for in-class work in Prep-Year 3, and for students who are unable to BYOD.</i>	\$10
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$20
Life Skills Go <i>Mental Health & Wellbeing software for students</i>	\$7
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$127

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
First aid equipment <i>For supply of first aid consumables, and upgrades to furniture & equipment in sickbay.</i>	\$20
School Sports Victoria membership <i>SSV charges a per-student fee schools that choose to participate in their interschool sports program.</i>	\$8
Library Fund <i>For the maintenance and purchasing of new books, and the software to track our books.</i>	\$20
School grounds maintenance and improvements <i>Significant works, such as shade sails and major playground upgrades that aren't funded by the Dept.</i>	\$50
Total Other Contributions	\$98

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Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Throughout the year students will be invited to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities e.g.: incursions, excursions and camps. These activities vary per year level and will be communicated to families as they arise.

Some of these activities require parent payment to participate: the school is charged by the provider (e.g.: the camp provider and bus company) and we pass that cost with no surcharge or discount directly through to families that choose to participate in the activity. If payment and consent is not received for a student, then that student does not participate in the activity and instead will do an equivalent in-class curriculum activity.

Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- The 2025 School Saving Bonus – you may have remaining funds
- 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:

Stewart Johnson
Business Manager
Phone: 03 9704 6313
Email: hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Totals

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$127
Other Contributions	\$98
Total	\$225

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Payment methods

Curriculum Contributions and Other Contributions can be paid through a number of options:

- **Most preferred option: through Compass** – a payment plan is available through Compass
- EFTPOS at the School Administration Counter
- BPAY using the details on your Family Financial Statement (emailed to parents regularly through the year, please contact the school if you are not receiving the Family Financial Statements)

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.