



No 1642

Dear parent/guardian,

Deans Marsh Primary School (DMPS) is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our school's voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

DMPS, like all government schools, provides students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that some 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's through fundraising, volunteering your time, or making payments for school programs and excursions. This has made a huge difference to our school and the variety of rich and rewarding programs we can offer. Within our school this support has allowed us to organise and coordinate the best possible programs outside of the traditional teaching and learning classroom structure. These financial contributions assist us with the purchasing of art, science and physical education equipment and resources, cooking ingredients and gardening supplies for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, and enhanced digital learning opportunities including 1:1 devices for every student.

Please find attached DMPS's financial contribution schedule for 2023. Please note – there will be no individual book packs required to be purchased for students in 2023. As in previous years, all necessary consumable items will be supplied directly to classrooms in bulk and will be distributed to students as and when they are needed. This system works very effectively at DMPS as long as our families make these voluntary contributions.

Compass will show all curriculum contributions, non-curriculum contributions and extra-curricular items and activities on each family's individual home page. As these items are paid, the charge will be removed from the home page. We hope this will help families access current fee information whenever required. Contribution reminders will be sent to families periodically detailing the different fees and showing which of these have been paid.

Please refer to the financial contributions schedule on the following pages for an indication of fees for your child in 2023.

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

Yours sincerely,

Russell Taylor-Shaw
PRINCIPAL

Caroline Shelbourne
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Curriculum Contributions

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom – pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, writing, graph & scrap books, highlighters, display books, scissors, rulers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, pencil cases, library bags, visual diaries, headphones, diaries, soundwaves books, targeted handwriting books, resilience project books etc (\$85) Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper including MACC consumables (\$40) Kitchen Garden – cooking ingredients and gardening consumables (\$30) Library – books and consumables (\$25) Science – materials (\$10) Indonesian – materials (\$10) Sports – equipment (\$5) Clubs – consumables (\$5) 	\$210
Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soundwaves (\$3) Essential Literacy (\$3) Essential Numeracy (\$10) Reading Eggs (\$18) Compass (\$20) 	\$54
ICT Levy - \$25 per term includes 1:1 device	\$100
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$5
Whole school events/local excursions, eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bambra Wetlands (\$3) 	\$3
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$372
Less subsidy from school	\$172
Total Curriculum Contributions (after subsidy)	\$200

Curriculum Contributions	Amount
Swimming Program	\$30

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
ICT Levy - \$10 per term for student to take device home	\$40 (optional)

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Deans Marsh 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 optional and provided on a user-pays basis.

No payment is required for these items or activities at this time – permission forms and payment request will be sent out to families throughout 2023.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities - Optional
School magazine/ yearbook
Year 3-6 Camp
Excursions
Grade 6 Polos & Hoodies
School Photos
Other optional excursions to be scheduled

Total 2023 School Fees

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$200.00
Curriculum Contributions – Swimming Program	\$30.00
Other Contributions	\$40.00 (optional)
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	TBA

Financial Support for Families

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

- the *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund* provides \$125 per year to help eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps, and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent you may be eligible. If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to reapply each year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office and ask for an application form.
- *State School Relief* provides financial support for eligible families to purchase clothing/uniforms at a reduced rate. SSR also provide a winter package for eligible Prep students.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact Kylie Permezel, Business Manager, 52363264 or deans.marsh.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

For the 2023 school year, Deans Marsh Primary School Council has approved the Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and Extra-Curricular Items to be collected via one of the following methods:

- Cash
- Direct deposit to the school's bank account – NAB 083001 / 988238739 (please note this is a new bank account)
- BPAY – please contact the school or refer to your contribution reminder statement for your individual family BPAY reference number
- Compass
- EFTPOS (new in 2023!)

Compass will allow parents to select which fee items they would like payments to be allocated against. There is also an option to make payments via a payment plan in Compass. Please note – 2023 Curriculum Contributions will not be visible in Compass until 2023.

All other payments will be allocated chronologically with older invoices paid first. If you wish payments to be allocated differently to this process, please email the school deans.marsh.ps@education.vic.gov.au prior to making the payment.

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 Payment 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 standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- 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.