

PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2026



Dear parent/guardian,

Forrest Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Forrest Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum 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's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. At Forrest Primary School, we design and develop learning and teaching programs drawing on the best educational knowledge and practices and strive to offer broad and enriched opportunities to students that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum and what is provided for by Government funding. Programs which we can offer because of your contributions include Bush Kinder, Kitchen Garden and Outdoor Education. Your contributions subsidise our celebration days such as the End of Year Concert, Book Week Celebrations, Grade 3-6 Camp and the P-2 Sleepover. All these programs running alongside the traditional classroom teaching and learning programs are imperative so as to provide an effectively balanced and rigorous overall education for your children.

The Voluntary IT Contributions assist our school in purchasing new Thinkpad devices and iPads with the latest interactive technology for our students. Further contributions from families will result in more devices being purchased to replace older devices, which will support our school in keeping a 1:1 ratio for devices as we grow our student population.

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

Yours sincerely,

Megan Murfitt
Principal

Dan Moriarty
School Council President

Please find following Forrest Primary School's voluntary financial contribution schedule for 2026. 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 needed.

Department of Education guidelines now mandate that from 2022 schools are unable to provide parents with a statement of fees. Forrest Primary School has implemented a management system which enables parents to view fees on the Compass app. This system shows 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 helps families access current fee information whenever required. Please refer to the financial contributions schedule below for an indication of fees for your child in 2026.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art – paint, crayons, coloured paper, glue, card, wool, material, clay</i> • <i>Science – ingredients, books, shared classroom materials</i> • <i>Mathematics – text books, stationary, maths kits</i> • <i>English – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers</i> • <i>Classroom - pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, writing, graph and scrap books, highlighters, post-it notes, folders, display books, scissors, rulers</i> 	\$77
<p><i>Online Subscriptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Essential Assessment (\$20)</i> • <i>Compass Connect (\$4)</i> • <i>Jocelyn Seamer Resource Room (\$10)</i> 	\$34
<p><i>ICT & STEM –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>STEM equipment and devices</i> • <i>provision of iPads and devices from the shared classroom sets</i> 	\$100
<i>Printing & photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$24.00
<p><i>Whole school subscriptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MACC Subscription (Art Van)</i> • <i>MARC Subscription (Library Van)</i> 	\$30.00 \$30.00
Total Amount	\$295.00
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>Student wellbeing programs: School Wide Positive Behaviour Support, Respectful Relationships, Berry Street Education & the Resilience Project</i>	\$25
<i>Sustainability program: Outdoor Education/Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program/Forrest Kids Go Bush (overalls, tools, cooking)</i>	\$20
Total Amount	\$45

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Forrest 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 to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis. Payment will be requested through Compass Events throughout the year.

Extra- Curricular Items and Activities - Optional

Year 3-6 Camp

Excursions

School Photos

Financial Support for Families

Forrest 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
- Individual payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- State Schools Relief

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

Sarah Lane – Business manager

Ph: 03 5236 6393 Email: Sarah.Lane@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

For the 2026 school year, Forrest Primary School Council has approved the Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and Extra-Curricular items to be collected via one of the following methods:

- Compass*
- Direct deposit to the school' bank account
 - Commonwealth Bank of Australia 063-510/00840126
- B-PAY – please contact the school for your individual family BPAY reference number.
- Cash

*Compass will allow parents to select which fee items they would like payments to be allocated against.

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.