

Dear parent/guardian,

ALTONA GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY 2025

Altona Green Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Altona Green Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

The Department of Education have strengthened the Parent Payments Policy to ensure there is transparency and consistency for all Victorian schools and families, and ensure schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Please see the following categories:

- Essential Student Learning Items has been renamed Curriculum Contributions
- Optional Items has been renamed Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Voluntary Contributions has been renamed Other Contributions

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

The environment and resources that we enjoy today represent the contributions made by our parent/carer community over many years. Parent/Carers voluntary contributions make a significant difference to the quality of our programs. This financial support ensures that we can continue to provide the excellent range of facilities and resources for your children. Your support has allowed us to:

- Provide high-quality programs and specific subject materials and equipment for: English, Mathematics, STEM, Art, Inquiry, Italian and PE;
- Provide the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program;
- Provide a high-quality wellbeing program including psychology and speech pathology supports;
- Maintain and develop our substantial school grounds;
- Ensure the upkeep of our technology devices and services to enhance learning opportunities;
- Maintain high-quality class sets of books for students to develop their reading skills;
- Provide hands on maths equipment and resources;
- Provide online digital subscriptions that support and enhance learning of the curriculum;
- Provide a range of physical education and sporting equipment;
- Arrange for individual student supplies and class bulk supplies;

Our school only requests contributions for items that we believe add value to the school experience for students. All contributions go specifically towards items and activities that help improve your child's educational experience. This year we have adjusted the curriculum contribution amount in response to the increased costs for materials, equipment and resources. Please be assured that we review all requests for contributions annually and make every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for parents.

Financial Support for Families

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

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Flexible payment arrangements (via Compass) & CentrePay
- Second-hand uniform
- State School Relief - clothing & uniform support
- School saving bonus one-off \$400 per student for 2025 only

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Tracy Henderson Ph: 03 93600777 | Email: Tracy.Henderson2@education.vic.gov.au

Payment Method

Compass is our preferred payment method. Our payment options are:

- Compass
- CentrePay (Centrelink)
- BPay - contact the office for details of your family reference number
- EFT - at the school office or via the telephone 93600777

Refund Policy

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.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support which ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for all our students. Your support has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer and we look forward to continuing to work together to continually improve our school.

Yours sincerely,

David King

Principal

Victoria Reynolds

School Council President

CURRICULUM AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Overview

Curriculum Contribution (per child) - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>Items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the curriculum. These items and activities are deemed essential for your child to learn the standard curriculum.</p> <p>(See Curriculum Contribution Explanation of Charges Below)</p>	\$280
Other Contributions (per child) - for non-curriculum items and activities	
<p>This voluntary financial contribution is for non-curriculum items and activities that support the school to provide supports and resources that contribute to our functions and objectives.</p> <p>This voluntary payment contributes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced student health and wellbeing programs and resourcesStudent and parent communication tools and resourcesSchool grounds maintenance and improvementsSports affiliation costs	\$50 (Suggested Amount)
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	
<p>Altona Green 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.</p> <p>These items and activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Camps, excursions and incursionsSwimming and other sporting events and activitiesOptional extra-curricular activitiesSchool photos <p>If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please pay and consent on Compass when advised.</p>	TBC
TOTAL AMOUNT:	\$330

CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTION

Explanation of Charges

Curriculum Contribution (per child) - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>General classroom consumables (including Specialist subjects), materials & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom materials and equipment - writing books, pens, pencils, textas, sharpener, ruler, eraser, craft materials Art supplies - paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper Inquiry resources Italian resources STEM consumables Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden materials and equipment Books/classroom libraries/reading material Mathematics - numeracy resources English - book boxes Physical Education/Sports - equipment and resources 	\$165
<p>Digital and online subscriptions for learning and assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seesaw PM RAZ Kids Essential Assessment Decodable readers SPA - Student Performance Analyser 	\$30
<p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision & upkeep of technology devices, infrastructure, and services for use in STEM and the classroom 	\$30
<p>Printing and Photocopying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing and photocopying of learning resources and materials 	\$35
<p>Curriculum Activities</p> <p>Resources for curriculum-based events and activities that further develop understanding of the core curriculum, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Week Science Week Education Week STEM Family Night KEFAR Day Italian Day 	\$20
TOTAL:	\$280



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.