Dear Parent/Carer,

Mulgrave Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the 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, we rely on the ongoing support of our families to ensure that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

Your support makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer, in particularly our ability to provide digital technologies to every student, without the need for a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, and our STEM program that includes a significant robotics allocation.

* As outlined in our Parent Payments Policy, the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides that instruction in the standard curriculum program is delivered free to all students in Victorian Government schools - referred to as 'free instruction.' To support this, the Victorian Government provides for much of our school's standard operational requirements with an annual grant. This covers items such as: replacement teaching staff, gas and electricity, water rates, facilities, telephone, furniture, some buildings or grounds maintenance, administration, **standard** curriculum support/resources and professional development.

Each school can also decide on the learning programs offered and funds required based on the needs and expectations of the school community. To provide educational programs of a *standard and quality* expected by our community, we require funds to support this. We use voluntary contributions from families to support us to provide better quality materials, equipment, resources, enhanced programs and opportunities **beyond the standard Victorian curriculum**.

Our school relies heavily upon voluntary financial contributions from parents to meet the difference between funds from DET and our budgeted expenditure each year. In previous years we have been most fortunate that our school community values the high standard of resourcing that payment of these contributions provides and have willingly contributed.

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

Yours sincerely,

Edmond Meszaros
School Council President

Alison Battaglia
Treasurer

Charles Spicer
Principal

2026 VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE – ALL YEAR LEVELS

Curriculum Contributions (GST free) - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum (Parents may choose to supply their own materials. Please contact the office for an itemised list).	Amount
Please note the total figure is subsidised through DET funding and does not balance with the individual items below. • *Classroom consumables, materials & equipment – paper, glue sticks, paint, pencils, pens, textas, highlighters, sharpeners, erasers, scissors, exercise books, scrap books, grid books, writing books, project books, display books, craft supplies, sticky tape, laminating pouches, cooking materials ($110)* • *Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, clay, coloured paper & craft items ($30)* • *Science –materials for experiments, robotics, equipment and software ($25)* • *Mathematics – workbooks, paper, calculators & numeracy equipment ($20)* • *English – workbooks, readers, classroom library books, paper and book boxes ($15)* • *Physical Education – equipment, ribbons and awards ($15)* • *LOTE – pencils, glue sticks, exercise books, scrap books, eraser, food supplies ($10)* • *Performing Arts – Books, paper, pencils, musical instruments including recorders (grade 3) ($10/$18)* • *Printing and copying of worksheets, student work and learning materials ($10)* • *ICT devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets including desktops, notebooks, iPads, classroom TV's and other devices. ($100)* • *Online Subscriptions – Sunshine Online, Essential Assessments, Soundwaves, Seesaw. ($35)*	$300
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	**Amount**
Student wellbeing programme *Parent Communication* *First Aid Equipment* *School buildings & grounds maintenance and improvements (including new Library STEM Centre)*	$100

Educational items for students to own

Mulgrave Primary School will supply all stationery and other items for your child to use and where relevant take home (own).

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Mulgrave Primary School offers a range of optional 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. Details of these items and activities will be provided to students and families throughout the year. **Any remaining School Saving Bonus can be used to pay for these activities in 2026.**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (Optional – user pays basis) **Any remaining School Saving Bonus can be used for these activities**	**Amount**
Optional Extra-Curriculum Activities – including school based and outside of school hours *Excursions/Incursions/Camps* *Sporting Events* *Grade 6 Graduation* *Swimming Program*	Amount to be advised at least 3 weeks prior to the activity.

Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Confidential Payment Arrangements
- 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 Suzy Shaw on 03 9795 2477 or email Mulgrave.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	$300.00
Other Contributions	$100.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – **The School Saving Bonus can be used for these activities.**	$TBA during the year
Total	**$400.00**

Payment methods

Our preferred method of payment for all parent payments and contributions is by using the Qkr! app. Payment can also be made by BPay or by EFTPOS/credit card at the office.

Whilst up front contributions are appreciated, termly instalments are possible and equally welcomed.

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 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.