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November 2022

2023 Parent/Carer Payment Arrangement - Year 8

Dear Parent/Carer,

Footscray High School is looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning in 2023 and would like to advise you of our parent payment arrangements. A change from last year's policy has seen the school undertake a thorough process to add a layer of specificity and transparency to the policy. With this added transparency we hope that our community now have a stronger understanding of what their contributions are going towards. With a tailored contribution request structure according to your child's subjects, Parents/Carers can be assured that their contributions are directly benefiting students.

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 from 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. This has made a significant difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Footscray High School has great expectations for learning that maximises engagement, progress, and achievement for each student. Each year the school will work hard to ensure financial stability whilst keeping contributions to a minimum, making education affordable and accessible for all.

The environment and resources that we enjoy today represent the co-contributions made by our parent/carers community and Government funding. Parent/Carers voluntary contributions make a significant difference to the quality of our programs.

The continued financial support from our community has been critical in being able to provide exceptional learning resources and creating a safe and inclusive environment to foster positive student outcomes. Resources that have benefited directly from these generous contributions in previous years included:

- High end IT servers
- Fully operational EAT WELL education program
- Bike Hub Program
- Student Wellbeing Programs (Social Emotional Education)
- New furniture
- New ICT equipment including computers & monitors
- Implementation of the FHS rowing program
- A range of sports, technology, music & science equipment
- Access to Education Perfect subscription
- Improved library resource centres
- Continued maintenance and improvement of the school grounds

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Vetere".

Frank Vetere
Executive Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mimma De Luca".

Mimma De Luca
School Council President



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum. Only units that have a contribution request are listed. If a unit is not listed, then no contribution request is being made.		Amount
Year 8 Student Resources, Infrastructure & Programs	Amount	\$80
Year 8 Student ID	\$10	
Year 8 School Printing and photocopying of worksheet and learning materials.	\$10	
Provision and upkeep of ICT infrastructure	\$10	
Year 7-8 Water Safety Swimming Program	\$40	
Education Perfect - <i>Contribution to Education perfect online Subscription</i>	\$10	
Core Curriculum Units	Amount	\$280
Art – <i>Class Materials (Tape, Paint, marker, masking tape, coloured paper), Provision/upkeep of equipment</i>	\$20	
Drama – <i>Costume/makeup consumables</i>	\$10	
Food Studies – <i>Food Ingredients for Practical Sessions, Provision/upkeep of equipment</i>	\$120	
Health & Physical Education - <i>Provision/upkeep of HPE equipment</i>	\$10	
LOTE (Japanese or Italian) – <i>Materials/resources for language activities, Games, language week activities</i>	\$10	
Music - <i>Provision/upkeep of music equipment, class materials, Google app for classroom music</i>	\$20	
Science – <i>Chemicals, practical items, and Provision & upkeep of equipment, learning activities and events, resources for assessments</i>	\$20	
Sport - <i>Provision and maintenance of sports equipment, facility hire for sports program</i>	\$20	
STEAM Community Inquiry Project – <i>Project materials, provision of equipment for projects, Guest speakers</i>	\$20	
STEAM Technology – <i>Electric vehicle project</i>	\$20	
STEAM Digital Technology – <i>Gamego/Makecode Arcade</i>	\$10	
Online Subscriptions (Paid through the JP Books Booklist)	Amount	
Stile	Refer to booklist	
Maths Pathway	Refer to booklist	
Total Curriculum Contributions (not including subscriptions)	\$360	



Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Student Wellbeing Program (Social Emotional Education)	\$10
Library Maintenance and Enhancement	\$10
School Sports Victoria Membership	\$10
Student and Parent Communication Tools i.e., Compass	\$10
Total Other Contributions	\$40

Educational items for students to own

All families will receive a link to JP Books with the booklist indicating items recommended for each subject, that we encourage you to purchase. Please follow the instructions per the link provided.

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

Extra-Curricular items and activities Footscray High School offers is 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.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Instrumental Music Program Lessons (Payment to be completed by Tuesday February 28 th 2023)	\$350
Instrument Music Program – Instrument Hire	\$140
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$490

Total

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$360
Other Contributions	\$40
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$XX
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$XX



Financial Support for Families

Footscray High School makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all Parents/Carers. We understand that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports, and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Eligible secondary school students receive a payment of \$225 per year. These payments are made directly to the school and are attached to the student. <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/csefflyer.pdf>
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Establishing individual/flexible 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 Student Finance Officer on 9112 9500 or finance@footscray.vic.edu.au

Payment Methods

Payments will be accepted via Compass Portal; access will be provided or EFTPOS payment at the Office (8.30am - 4.00pm) from **MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2022**

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and are 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.

If the school decides to provide a refund, then parents/carers need to agree and advise the school where the refund should be paid. If that agreement cannot be reached, the refund is usually paid into the account from which the money came.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached or visit the website directly. [Parent Payments: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parent-payments-policy)



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.

