

November 2023

2024 Parent/Carer Payment Arrangements – Year 9

Dear Parent/Carer,

Footscray High school is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements 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.

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 2023 included:

- Shade sails at campuses
- Staff Car Park perimeter fence installed on Farnsworth Avenue
- High level IT equipment across all campuses
- Student safety systems such as CCTV and vape detectors
- A range of sports, technology, music & science equipment
- Online subscriptions
- Compass portal

These arrangements have been approved by the School Council and comply with Department of Education guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Vetere
Executive Principal



Mimma De Luca
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions – Voluntary Contributions for items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum.			Amount									
<p>A) Holistic Curriculum contribution towards running expenses of all subjects and other curriculum costs other than those extension units listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject consumables, Class materials, activities, venue hire, provision/upkeep of equipment, Printing and photocopying of worksheet and materials, Revision packages, assessments, and exams. • Provision/upkeep of ICT infrastructure • Year 9 Student ID • Urban & Rural Intensives: Bike Hub – Mechanic, bike parts and consumables. • Education Perfect subscription 			\$350									
<p>B) Extension Units Contributions</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>Amount</i></th> <th>✓</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Food Technology - Food Ingredients for practical sessions, provision/upkeep of equipment</td> <td>\$125</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foods of the world - Food Ingredients for practical sessions, provision/upkeep of equipment</td> <td>\$125</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				<i>Amount</i>	✓	Food Technology - Food Ingredients for practical sessions, provision/upkeep of equipment	\$125		Foods of the world - Food Ingredients for practical sessions, provision/upkeep of equipment	\$125		\$XX (Parent to Complete)
	<i>Amount</i>	✓										
Food Technology - Food Ingredients for practical sessions, provision/upkeep of equipment	\$125											
Foods of the world - Food Ingredients for practical sessions, provision/upkeep of equipment	\$125											
<p>C) Online Subscriptions (paid through JP Books Booklist)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science - Stile \$26.10 • Maths- Maths Pathway - \$78.30 			Amount \$104.40									
Total Curriculum Contributions (A+B+C)			\$xx									

Other Contributions – Voluntary Contributions for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Student wellbeing programs (SEE)	\$10
Library Maintenance and enhancement	\$10
Interschool Sports I.e., School Sports Victoria Membership, Maribyrnong Division costs	\$10
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$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 2024)	\$400
Instrumental Music Program – Instrument Hire	\$140
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$540

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$XX (Parent to Complete)
Other Contributions <i>(Non-tax deductible)</i>	\$40
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$XX (Parent to Complete)
Total	\$XX (Parent to Complete)

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. Students 16 years and over are also eligible to apply for themselves if they hold a valid health care card. 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/PAL/csef-financial-assistance-information-parents.docx>

- 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)

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 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.