

1 November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2024 – FOUNDATION



Edithvale Primary School looks forward to welcoming families for another great year of learning.

This notice summarises Edithvale Primary School's Voluntary Financial Contribution program for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer a great education and support for our students. This support, whether through contributions, fundraising or volunteering, makes a significant difference to our school and the programs we can offer, and we sincerely extend our gratitude to you.

We're pleased to share that we will NOT be increasing contributions for 2024.

We understand the need to balance the rising cost of living with giving students the best possible opportunities for future success through quality education. We are confident of continuing academic growth into 2024 by maintaining the existing commitment from our families.

Voluntary contributions have been invaluable in creating a successful, holistic education program – with demonstrated improvement in our school's academic performance.

Specifically, contributions have funded a range of initiatives that help underpin the education and experience we can offer students, including:

- Expansive wellbeing programs.
- Digital learning and devices.
- Installation and ongoing maintenance of our synthetic oval, shade sails and various gardens.
- Establishment of new portable classrooms – including furniture and AV/IT equipment
- Performing Arts Program – Instruments & Other Equipment.
- Robotics and aids to enhance STEM learning.
- Decodable readers.

It's through such initiatives that Edithvale Primary School can proudly offer a learning experience beyond the basic curriculum, which has translated to an incredible improvement in NAPLAN testing outcomes over the past 6 years, with Edithvale Primary School comparing very favourably to both overall state results, and those of similar schools. We recognise further opportunities to extend this improvement into future years and will continue to invest in its education resources and practices to meet this plan. The following tables summarises and compares our students' results in 2023, measured against the State mean. AMAZING!

	Edithvale Mean	State Mean	Difference
Year 3			
Grammar and Punctuation	456.7	415.8	+40.9
Numeracy	462.0	405.2	+56.8
Reading	443.6	410.2	+33.4
Spelling	432.2	411.1	+21.1
Writing	439.1	419.9	+19.2

Year Level: Foundation 2024

	Edithvale Mean	State Mean	Difference
Year 5			
Grammar and Punctuation	556.9	486.5	+70.4
Numeracy	524.0	491.1	+32.9
Reading	528.2	485.9	+42.3
Spelling	517.5	491.5	+26.0
Writing	526.8	477.1	+49.7

2024 PROGRAM

2024 Contributions

Our 2024 contribution amounts have been established to continue to provide the level of curriculum, support, and facilities to our students to best prepare them for future education. We understand that COVID-19 as well as the rise in living costs for all of us impacted families within the community - we have consciously kept amounts as low as possible for 2024 to assist our families to support our great school when making voluntary contributions.

To help us plan our programs we are asking for contributions to be made prior to **Friday 8 December 2023.**

Performing Arts

In 2023, for the first time, we were pleased to offer a Performing Arts program designed to build students' confidence and resilience and create a love of performing. Further establishment of this program needs further resourcing and we're seeking assistance with this.

Booklists/Stationery

Once again, Individual Booklists are not required in 2024. In response to the financial impact of the last 3 years, we will be purchasing stationery items for ALL students in 2024 (a saving of between \$75-\$95 per student). This includes exercise books, textbooks, paper, folders, document wallets, scrapbooks, clipboards, display books, magazine holders, tissues etc.

Ordering in bulk allows us to secure the best possible prices for these items. We are asking for a contribution of \$90 per student towards these bulk items, as shown under Curriculum Contributions in the table on the following page.

We ask all families to purchase pencil case items for their children. These include, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, glue sticks, markers, textas, crayons & scissors, which you can replenish throughout the year as the need arises.

Account Credit

If you currently have a child enrolled with us, you may have a credit on your account that can be allocated to your 2024 Financial Contributions. Please check the attached statement, or contact our administration team (Sandie, Helen or Holly) to have your credit allocated. *Amounts on your statement with a minus sign before them, are credits; which can be allocated to your charges.*

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

Yours sincerely







James Whittle

Principal

Natalie Firth

School Council President



2024 VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS

PAYMENT TABLE (Foundation):		
Curriculum Contributions: Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum. These contributions are <u>per student</u> .		Amount (\$)
Student Stationery* - including exercise books, text books, paper, folders, document wallets, scrapbooks, clipboards, display books, magazine holders, tissues, paint, glitter, coloured paper, sticky tape, canvas, clay etc; Classroom consumables, materials & equipment (70) Science Chemicals (10) Sports Equipment (10)		90
Performing Arts: Further enhancing this new specialist program		15
Online Subscriptions: Mathematics and English - Online Programs		15
Student Wellbeing Programs: • School Wide Positive Behaviours, Respectful Relationships, Therapy Dog Training.		20
Total Amount (per student):		140
Other Contributions: Non-curriculum items and activities: These contributions are <u>per family</u> .		Amount (\$)
	Digital Technologies & STEM Innovation: To purchase engaging, programmable robotics equipment that develop creativity, problem solving & resilience.	50
	Additional Education Support: To assist us to provide targeted literacy support, intervention and extension.	35
	Student First Aid: To supply first aid equipment, including sunscreen; and to aid the provision of a full time first aid officer from Monday to Friday.	25
	School Buildings: Maintenance and improvement.	25
	School Grounds: Maintenance and improvement. ie: Safety, Shade Sails, Sandpit Construction	25
Total Amount (capped at \$250 per family)^:		160

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Edithvale 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 and prices to be advised prior to the event.

- ❖ There may be other extra curricular events and activities that become available throughout the year and are not listed here yet.
- ❖ These events will be listed on COMPASS, where you will be able to complete online permission forms and make your payment.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities All contributions are per student, unless indicated otherwise.		Amount
	Swimming Program (Haileybury) 8 Sessions of 30 - 45 Minutes	Approx. \$110
	Other Optional Activities: Excursions, incursions & activities yet to be scheduled	TBA
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		

PAYMENTS SUMMARY BY FAMILY

Contribution Category	One Child	Two Children	Three + Children
Curriculum*	\$140	\$280	\$420
Other	\$160	\$250^	\$250^
Total:	\$300	\$530	\$670
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Costs advised as they arise.		

* Parents are able to purchase their own booklist items if they prefer to (a Year level stationery list can be collected from the school office).

^ Other Contributions Family Cap: If you have one child, this is a total of \$160; if you have more than one child, the total is capped at \$250 for the family.

Payment Methods

Compass is our preferred Method of Payment, however Credit Card, Bpay or Direct Deposit can be used. Please ask us for your Bpay Code; or our Bank Details if you wish to pay using those methods.

You may have a credit on your account that can be allocated to these Financial Contributions. Please check the attached statement, or contact our administration team (Sandie, Holly or Helen) to have your credit allocated. Amounts on your statement with a minus sign before them, are credits; which can be allocated to your charges.

Financial Support for Families

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

- CSEF - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund - paid to the School on your behalf; and can be used to cover camps, sport and excursions.
- Centrepay - where you can direct Centrelink to send a portion of your pension or benefit straight to the school each fortnight.
- Second Hand Uniform Shop - open upon request, offering good quality second hand clothing.
- State Schools Relief - we can apply for shoes, books and clothing for your child if you hold a Centrelink Pension card.
- Local community supporters - are sometimes available to help families suffering with financial hardship. We can source these for you if required.

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

Principal: Mr James Whitla

Phone: 03 9772 1393

Email: edithvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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.