

# MERRI-BEK PRIMARY SCHOOL – NO 2837

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## Parent Payments 2023 – Grade 5

Merri-bek Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of *Merri-bek Primary School's* voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, we rely on the ongoing support of our families to ensure our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

As we did for this year, we will bulk purchase all stationery. This reduces waste and saves you money. This means you do not have to purchase any stationery for your child as the cost is included in the 'consumables' amount listed below.

Merri-bek Primary is a community which values education. Many of our parents and guardians are highly educated and hold senior work roles or own businesses. These education levels and jobs mean Merri-bek Primary is considered to be in the highest socio-economic band for Victoria (the same as schools in Toorak or South Yarra) and the department provides the minimum amount of funding to support low-income families to take part equitably. For this reason, we rely on parent contributions to ensure we can direct as much funding as possible to quality education and programs for our children.

**The good news is that because we all value education, the vast majority of families make their contributions and many also donate to our building fund too. These contributions are such an important way for you to support your child's education and our whole school. We thank you so much for everything you do.**

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

Yours sincerely,



Maria Giordano  
Principal



Lee Cath  
School Council President

| <b>Curriculum Contributions</b> - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum   |                | Amount          |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Grade 5 classroom consumables, materials, stationery &amp; equipment including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Arts (Visual, Performing and Musical)</i></li> <li>• <i>Spanish</i></li> <li>• <i>STEM</i></li> <li>• <i>Mathematics</i></li> <li>• <i>English</i></li> <li>• <i>Physical Education</i></li> </ul> |                |                 |
| <i>Online Subscriptions</i>   |                |                 |
| <i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>   |                |                 |
| <i>Whole school events</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wellbeing days</i></li> <li>• <i>Book week</i></li> </ul>  |                |                 |
| <b>Total Amount (including all above items)</b>   |                | <b>\$275.00</b> |
| <b>Other Contributions</b> - for non-curriculum items and activities  |                | Amount          |
| Use of class set Apple Macbook<br><b>(where a BYOD device is not provided)</b>  |                | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| <b>Tax deductible contributions</b>   |                |                 |
| <b><i>Building fund.</i></b> A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.  |                |                 |
| The suggested sliding scale is as follows:  | Tax deductible |                 |
| Combined income up to \$100,000   | Yes            | \$250           |
| Combined income from \$100,000 to \$150,000   | Yes            | \$500           |
| Combined income over \$150,000  | Yes            | \$1000          |
| <b>Total Amount</b>   |                | <b>\$</b>       |

## Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Merri-bek 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.

| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities              |  | Amount    |
|--|--|-----------|
| <i>Twilight Sports</i>                             |  | TBA       |
| <i>School Camp (Grade 5/6)</i>                     |  | TBA       |
| <i>Interschool Sports</i>                          |  | TBA       |
| <i>Healthy Harold</i>                              |  | TBA       |
| <i>Gymnastics</i>                                  |  | TBA       |
| <i>Swimming Program</i>                            |  | TBA       |
| <i>Funfields</i>                                   |  | TBA       |
| <b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b> |  | <b>\$</b> |

## Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

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

Belinda Slomo, Business Manager

Ph: 03 9386 2510 | Email: [belinda.slomo@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:belinda.slomo@education.vic.gov.au)

## Total

| Category                              |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Curriculum Contributions              | \$275.00 |
| Other Contributions                   | \$100.00 |
| Building fund                         | \$       |
| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities | \$TBA    |

## Payment methods

*Payment plan via Compass*

*Direct Deposit*

*Bpay*

# 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.