

Southern Cross Primary School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Southern Cross Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Southern Cross Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

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 of 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, whether that's through fundraising or attending school events. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to:

- Provide a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences
- Enhance our Literacy & Numeracy Programs
- Offer enhanced digital learning opportunities
- Refurbish school grounds and replace shade sails
- Install new bike and scooter racks
- Purchase new classroom furniture
- Purchase additional Library furniture and replace shelving
- Complete Building Works projects including transforming the classroom learning spaces
- Offer small group & 1:1 intervention
- Install new school signage and school value totems

Please find below Southern Cross Primary School's voluntary financial contributions schedule for 2026, which includes an overview of what your contributions will contribute towards.

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

Yours sincerely,



Helen Murphy

Principal



Tom Sherburn

School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment - Classroom books, binders, rulers, pencils, crayons, paper, reading diaries etc - Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials - Class Sets of Books and Stationery - Textbooks – Primary Heggerty, Read & Write Phonics and The Science of Reading	\$45
- Literacy – Book boxes, class sets, novels, take home reading books. - Numeracy – Bondblocks, numeracy blocks, maths kits, calculators, etc Inquiry-resources, classroom consumables - Art – paints, brushes, crayons, glitter, paper (coloured and plain), glue, wool, etc - Chinese – printed materials, cooking ingredients, classroom consumables - Physical Education – equipment, ribbons, materials - Performing Arts – instruments and equipment, classroom consumables - STEM – ingredients, shared classroom materials, books	\$55
Online Subscriptions - Top 10 Maths - Amplify - DIBELS - Magic School Ai - Study Ladder	\$40
ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets	\$20
Whole school events - Reconciliation Week - Chinese Cultural Day - NAIDOC Week - Book Week - SWPBS Events	\$20
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Student wellbeing programs	\$10
First aid equipment	\$10
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$10
School Sports Victoria affiliation	\$10
Learning Technologies	\$10
Education Support	\$10
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$10
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.	\$10
Total Amount	\$260

Educational items for students to own

Our School takes great care to minimise costs to parents by ordering in bulk, discounted stationery. However, families do have the option to purchase their own supplies. Parents must ensure that students' stationery is brought to the school on the 1st day of school, 2026. If you wish to purchase your own supplies, a stationery list can be collected from the office.

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

Southern Cross 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 to deliver the Curriculum.

The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount	Purchase (Please tick)
<i>Other optional camps and excursions to be scheduled throughout 2026</i>	<i>TBA</i>	-
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		\$

Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Second-hand Uniform and low-cost options e.g. school clothing pool, low cost suppliers
- Local community supports
- State School Relief Uniform package

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: The Business Manager on 03 9700 4488 or email:

southern.cross.ps@education.vic.gov.au

The Camps Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) is available for eligible families. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Application forms can be accessed on Compass in 2025 or request a copy from the Office. Parents who currently receive the CSEF and who remain eligible will automatically have their 2026 application processed by the School.

Total

Category	Suggested Amount	
Curriculum Contributions	\$180.00	\$
Other Contributions (Non-tax deductible)	\$60.00	\$
Building Fund (Tax deductible)	\$10.00	\$
Library Fund (Tax deductible)	\$10.00	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	TBC	-
Payment Amount Total	\$260	\$

Payment methods

- Compass (Preferred method)
- Eftpos or Cash payment at the Front Office
- Direct Deposit
- Recurring Contributions Monthly Payment Plan – Parent initiated

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.

Please also refer to Southern Cross Primary Schools Refund Policy on our Website www.sthcrossps.vic.edu.au

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.