



INCLUSIVE
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8th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spensley Street Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and we would like to advise you of our School Council approved parent contribution arrangements for 2024.

Background:

Victorian schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all parent contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can continue to offer the best possible education, facilities and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This continues to make a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

A free public education in Victoria means that Victorian government schools must teach the standard curriculum to all students for free. This covers Prep to Year 12. Each school receives funding from the government to teach the standard curriculum. This funding pays for

- staff to do the teaching and run the school;
- the basic building and current facilities; and
- extra support for children with a disability.

All schools in Victoria are funded by the Department of Education and Training (DET) based on the number of students who attend the school, and according to socioeconomic criteria (the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage-ICSEA).

As Spensley Street ranks very high on the ICSEA Index, this directly affects our school funding as the higher the ranking, the less government funding we receive.

Parent Contribution Arrangements for 2024:

Locally raised funds are critical to Spensley Street to provide students with the wider variety of programs and resources we enjoy, along with ensuring that our school facilities are up to date and well-maintained. The voluntary parent contributions are a very important way that we raise those funds.

A detailed schedule of parent contributions is presented over page. There have been no increases to these contributions since 2021, however this year there is a modest increase to cover some inflation and relative cost increases. The contributions are classified as Curriculum (2% increase on 2022), Other (7% increase) and Building Fund (14% increase). Contributions to the Building Fund are tax-deductible.

Payment Method:

The Compass Course Confirmation / School Payments module allows you to pay online by card. Payment may be made in full or by establishing a payment plan. You can select this as an option in the payment section. This will be open for payment in January 2024.

Financial Support for Families:

Spensley Street prides itself on being an inclusive community where all children are provided with the best education regardless of their financial circumstances. If your family is experiencing financial hardship or holds a means-tested Centrelink card please speak with the Principal about payment options in early 2024.

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

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Katie Brown- School Council President

Bec Spink- Principal



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Fee schedule – Prep-Year 6

Please find the itemised list of parent contributions and optional items for your child.

Curriculum Contributions - Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Student Stationery Items	\$66
Cultural Arts Program	\$60
Online Learning Subscriptions (Mathletics, Online ACER Tests, mClass (DIBELS) & Essential Assessment)	\$70
Provision and upkeep of School Technology Equipment	\$20
Consumable materials that students use across all learning areas	\$200
TOTAL	\$416*

*\$408 in 2022

Other Contributions	Amount
The additional costs below are for items & activities that are not provided by the Department of Education used to enhance and broaden the schooling experience of students.	
Materials, equipment, training and staff development for all school programs, English, Mathematics, Changes, Music, Art, Italian, Library, STEAM, JSC, Green Team, and Wellbeing.	\$165
Edible Garden	\$40
<i>In addition to our education programs this voluntary parent contribution also supports:</i>	
First Aid Supplies	\$8
Ongoing Grounds Maintenance	\$130
TOTAL	\$343*

*\$320 in 2022

Building Fund Voluntary Contribution- Tax Deductible	Amount
In 2023 we used our Building Fund donations to renovate the sink and cabinetry spaces in each Area. In 2024 we'll focus on upgrading the school library to make it a more vibrant and welcoming space, along with contributing funds to the redevelopment of the school front entrance.	
Donations from our Building fund also go towards general and emergency maintenance of school buildings including repairs, painting and plumbing etc.	
TOTAL <i>Suggested amount</i>	\$350-\$900+ <i>per family</i>

Optional Items
<p>2024 Spensley Street PS additions to the standard school-based curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excursions & Incursions ● Glen Forbes Camps ● Year 6 Camp ● Interschool Sport ● P-1 Gymnastics ● 2-3 Yoga ● Events- Eg Year 6 Dinner ● School Photos <p><i>Payment for these items will be collected as they occur throughout the year via Compass.</i></p>



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Building Fund Goals:

- Upgraded main entry to the school
- New equitable access walkway to meet existing entry ramp (to make the building accessible)



- Library Refresh- Fresh paint & carpet



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.