



Bendigo Special Developmental School

"A place of excellence in education that creates inclusive communities and success for all"

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PARENT PAYMENT POLICY 2024

November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Bendigo Special Developmental School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Bendigo Special Developmental School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

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. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to offer a wider range of special curriculum experiences and enhanced digital learning opportunities.

Bendigo Special Developmental School makes every effort to keep the contribution requests to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

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

Yours sincerely

Kirshy McAinch
PRINCIPAL

Leah Thomas
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment (in place of booklists) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Classroom Needs including paper, pencils, class texts • Food Technology: food, cooking, sensory needs, food sensitivity, daily living skills, increasing diet range • STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) and Music: classroom supplies and resources including instruments and digital technologies • Therapy: equipment needs may include specialised eating utensils, daily living modifications • Swimming / Hydrotherapy: swimming program equipment, resources • Bike Education: bikes, helmets • Community Access: local excursion transport costs, public transport costs 	\$ 170.00
Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardmaker (\$10.00) 	\$ 10.00
ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets (\$10.00)	\$ 10.00
Communication tools - PODD books, assistive technology devices, displays (\$50.00)	\$ 50.00
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials (\$100.00)	\$ 100.00
Whole school events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of People With A Disability (\$5.00) • SWPBS Celebration Day (\$5.00) 	\$ 10.00
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
First aid and hygiene equipment (Suggested \$10)	
School grounds maintenance and improvements (Suggested \$10)	\$
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure. (Suggested \$10)	\$
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource. (Suggested \$10)	\$
Total Amount (Suggested \$40)	\$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities



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Bendigo Special Developmental 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	Purchase (Please tick)
Camps, Excursions, Incursions, Performances (School Production) and Travel Safety Equipment are not included in the Curriculum Contributions. Information specific to these will be communicated to you as planning is undertaken during the year.		
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		\$

Financial Support for Families

Bendigo Special Developmental School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Instalment Payments / Flexible Payment Plans are available on request

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

Kirshy McAinch, Principal
Ph: 03 54473267

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions (Suggested \$360)	\$
Other Contributions (Suggested \$40)	\$
Total (Suggested \$400)	\$

Payment methods

Eftpos, Cash, Direct Deposit to School Bank Account and Centrepay

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.