

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: 2026 Parent Payment Arrangements

Bairnsdale Secondary College is looking forward to another year of supporting the wellbeing and learning of your child and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Extra-curricular items are on a user pays basis. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and outcomes for our students. We want to thank our families for all their financial contributions in providing for the educational needs of our students. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Parent/Carer contributions in 2025 allowed us to:

- provide high quality programs and specific subject materials and equipment for our new buildings in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Humanities, Technology, Health and Physical Education.
- maintain and develop the school grounds and buildings.
- ensure the upkeep of our computer devices to enhance learning opportunities.
- maintain sufficient class sets of books for students to develop their reading skills.
- provide hands on maths equipment e.g., measuring materials for teaching purposes.
- facilitate Literacy and Mathematics online digital subscriptions.
- deliver a range of sporting equipment.
- provide an exceptional student wellbeing program.

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

The full version of the Department's Parent Payment policy can be accessed from the Bairnsdale Secondary College website or <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy>

To support our families, the College has removed curriculum contributions from the payment arrangements. This change will reduce costs for families by up to \$500 per family.

Attached are the parent payment arrangements for 2026, including:

- Voluntary contributions towards resources, and programs consumables
- Other voluntary contributions
- Extra-curricular items and activities – provided on a user-pays basis. Our College offers a range of optional 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
- Parent Payments Policy – one page overview.

Educational items for students to own

Please find enclosed your student's booklist that we recommend you purchase from Schoolworks Supplies for your child to individually own and use.

CompassPay

CompassPay is available using the Compass App which is accessible for all families. Through Compass we invite Parents/Carers to make a financial contribution to support our school in the following categories:

- Voluntary Contributions to Resources and Programs
- Other Voluntary Contributions
- Extra - Curricular Items and Activities – not voluntary – these are charged on a user pay basis.

Parent/Carers new to our College will be provided with login details to the Compass App and a booklet of instructions.

Financial Support for Families

Bairnsdale Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).
- regular contributions plan for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities.
- State Schools Relief (SSR) e.g. uniform support.

If you hold a current concession card, Veteran Affairs Gold card or are a temporary foster carer, you are eligible for the CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund). Please complete the application form and return it to the College for processing. This needs to be completed each year.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss the Parent Payment contributions, please contact our Finance Team:

Phone 03 5150 4800

email accounts@bairnsdalesc.vic.edu.au

Payment Methods

- Via Compass using your credit card or Mastercard/Visa debit cards
- BPAY and Direct Deposit – please contact our Finance Team
- Cash and EFT at the Administration office
- Centrepay for Extra-curricular items - please contact our Finance Team.

For those families currently making regular payments for extra-curricular items and activities, or if you would like to arrange regular payments, please contact our Finance Team for a 2026 Parent Payment Contributions form.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of our College and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the College 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.

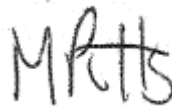
All refunds will be credited to the family account and where the family requires payment, the Family Finance Officer is to be contacted.

If you would like to discuss any of the options or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Roberts
College Principal



Martin Potts
Council President



2026 Parent Payments – Extra Curriculum Items/Activities and Voluntary Contributions

The amounts listed are per student.

Resources and Programs	
Edrolo Digital Resources – is for students completing the VCE subjects listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology, Psychology • Edrolo pricing is approximately \$90.00 per subject Further information will be sent home regarding the Edrolo Payment Platform with your student	
ICT Support – Includes but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment needed to sustain and enhance our ICT program • Ongoing technical support 	\$55.00
Student Resources - Includes but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning material 	\$25.00
Laptop program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families loaning a device in 2025 will have the option of continuing to participate in the 1:1 tablet / laptop program in 2026. Students will have full use of the laptop throughout the school year as a loan device or • Families opting to use a school-supplied refurbished device in 2026 	\$50.00

Other Voluntary Contributions	
Subject materials consumables	\$50.00
Sports Program - School Sports Victoria membership and to support student participation in inter-school sports	\$25.00
Student Wellbeing Program - support individual students wellbeing; Your contribution supports us in developing our knowledge of student needs and the best approach to assist them and their families.	\$25.00
Building and Grounds - to keep the school looking its best	\$25.00
Equipment and Maintenance - provide students with up-to-date equipment that supports their learning	\$25.00

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – User Pays:	
Music - Instrumental Program Tuition Fee	\$200.00
Music - Instrument Purchase - Min 25% of instrument cost per semester	TBA
Music - Instrument Hire per year	\$200.00
Excursions and Activities are invoiced prior to event	As per each event
Year level overnight camps	Approx \$350.00 to \$450.00
First Aid Course – additional to curriculum (approximate cost – Year 10 and 11)	\$75.00
Construction Induction Card– additional to curriculum (approximate cost – Year 9, 10 and 11)	\$200.00
Optional School Formal Year 11 (approximately)	\$120.00
Year 12 Graduation and Celebration Day	TBA
VCAL Job Incursion (approximately)	\$230.00
VET Off Campus Bus Fare (students busing from College to VET provider)	\$60.00

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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.