

February 3rd, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Ashwood School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

At Ashwood School we are very proud of the quality programs and learning environment we provide for our students. On an annual basis School Council prepares a budget to provide resources for educational programs, administration, facilities development and maintenance. Whilst Government funding based upon our number of students covers the majority of the school's operations, additional funds are required to enable the school to continue to provide a high standard of facilities and resources.

The Technology Levy has assisted in supporting considerable more ICT provision for our students here at Ashwood. The 2023 Levy will enable us to continue the technology program for all students with the provision of iPads and a range of computers and technology devices including replacing IWB's.

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 is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to

- Assisted in building up many of the resources that assist your child
- Wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences
- Enhanced digital learning opportunities
- The upgrade of classroom furniture
- New bikes & equipment for the Fitness Centre

For further information on the Department of Education and Training Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Lawlor
School Council President

Sandy Suckling
Business Manager

<i>Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<p><i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Visual Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper etc.</i> • <i>Horticulture – gardening tool, plants, etc</i> • <i>Digital Technology – Lego Kits, Ozobot Robots, cooperative games</i> • <i>Food Technology – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc.</i> • <i>Mathematics – specialised learning resources</i> • <i>English - specialised learning resources</i> • <i>Sports – equipment</i> • <i>Sensory items</i> • <i>Laminating, Printing and photocopying of learning materials</i> • <i>Student Diary & Cover</i> • <i>Online subscriptions to learning activities e.g</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Storybox</i> - <i>Essential Assessment Maths/english</i> - <i>Wushka</i> - <i>Purple Mash</i> 	\$265
<p><i>ICT Devices – provision of devices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A range of computers & Technology devices</i> • <i>iPads/Laptops</i> 	\$100
<i>Sub Total: \$365</i>	
<i>Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>School Sports Victoria membership - \$23</i>	
<i>Student wellbeing programs - \$17</i>	
<p><i>First aid and hygiene equipment</i> <i>eg general First Aid, hand sanitiser, PPE , tissues, etc.- \$15</i></p>	\$115
<i>Playground- School grounds maintenance and improvements - \$25</i>	
<i>Ashwood School Bus & Vans - cost of operating the School Council owned and leased bus/vans including purchase of fuel, bus maintenance and training of bus drivers. -\$35</i>	
<i>Sub Total: \$115</i>	
Total Amount \$500 (please fill in your payment amount)	\$

Tax deductible contributions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashwood School Deductible Gift Recipient Fund – Donation <p>As a Special School, Ashwood School has been endorsed by the Tax Office, and is able to issue tax deductible receipts for donations to the school. If you wish to make a donation to the school please indicate this on the attached payment slip.</p> <p>Your valuable donations have assisted the school in 2021/22 to be able to upgrading classroom furniture & create outdoor learning areas. In 2023 our focus again is to upgrade further classroom furnishings across the school and to create outdoor learning areas for classes.</p> <p>(A tax deductible receipt will be issued.)</p>	\$
Total Amount (please fill in)	\$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Ashwood 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.

If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please indicate on the table below and return this to the school by March 2023.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount	Purchase (Please tick)
School magazine/ yearbook	\$20	
School Camps, Incursions & Excursions to be scheduled and invoiced at a later date prior to event.	TBA	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities (please fill in)		\$

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Parent Payment plans can be organised through school email.

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

Sandy Suckling
Business Manager

Ph: 03 98087444 | Email: ashwood.sch@education.vic.gov.au

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.