

October 10, 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Somerville Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise families of our voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to meet the standard curriculum requirements, and we would like to reassure you that all contributions are entirely voluntary. However, the exceptional learning opportunities, resources, and wellbeing programs we offer are made possible through the ongoing support and generosity of our families.

Our mission is to provide a high-quality, supportive, and engaging learning program for every student. Your contributions enable us to deliver outstanding teaching and learning experiences and enhance academic, social, and emotional outcomes for all children.

To make the process easier for families, our 2026 voluntary contributions include student book packs and essential consumable items including online subscriptions, which will be delivered directly to the school.

The continued support of our parent and carer community has been instrumental in maintaining Somerville Primary School's strong academic, social, and wellbeing results, as highlighted in our recent school review. Throughout this year, we upgraded our digital learning resources with 30 new Lenovo laptops and 30 new iPads.

In 2026, we will continue this investment with an additional 125 new laptops and secure charging stations, ensuring students have access to modern technology. This initiative also allows us to retire the BYOD program, reducing costs for families.

Our school grounds have undergone significant improvements, including the clearing of overgrown areas to increase play space for students. In 2026, we will begin upgrading several playground areas and equipment, further enhancing our outdoor learning and recreation spaces.

With a continued focus on evidence-based teaching and learning, our staff will have access to the resources needed to deliver engaging, high-quality instruction and support every student to achieve their best.

For more information about the Department's Parent Payments Policy, please see the attached one-page overview.

If you have any questions regarding our Parent Contributions for 2026, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Sharp – Principal



Adam Phillips – School Council President

Eramosa Rd East,
Somerville Vic 3912
Tel 03 5977 5421

somerville.ps@education.vic.gov.au

somervilleps.vic.edu.au

2026 CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	AMOUNT PER STUDENT PER YEAR LEVEL
STUDENT CLASSROOM ITEMS • Year level specific ‘book pack’ student items delivered directly to class • General additional classroom materials & equipment - Shared poster paper, coloured paper, craft items, items for cooking activities, etc. • Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials • Headphones – Year Prep, 3 & 5 • Whiteboards – Year 2 SPECIALIST SUBJECT CONSUMABLES, MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT Including but not limited to: • Art Materials such as paint, crayons, glitter, coloured paper, etc. • Science/STEM – materials, equipment & resources • Mathematics equipment & resources • English resources • PE equipment • Music/Performing Arts equipment & resources • Languages (Auslan) – equipment & resources ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS & ASSESSMENTS • Essential Assessment - Numeracy – All year levels • Literacy Pro – Years 3 to 6 • Mathletics – Years 3 to 6 • Mathseeds – Years Prep to 2 • Reading Eggs – Years Prep to 4 • Elastic (writing tool) – Years 2 to 6 • Cybersafety Program – All year levels INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY • Provision and upkeep of school owned devices and sets • Software and equipment for our ICT program	PREP \$ 220.00 Year 1 \$ 210.00 Year 2 \$ 240.00 Year 3 \$ 240.00 Year 4 \$ 220.00 Year 5 \$ 230.00 Year 6 \$ 230.00

2026 OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS NON-CURRICULUM ITEMS Suggested amounts, you may wish to pay more, or less at your discretion	AMOUNT PER STUDENT
Additional School Programs: Enhanced student wellbeing programs (including breakfast club, toast and talk), First Aid support, enhanced school communication, affiliations/memberships (eg. School Sports Victoria)	\$30.00
School Buildings & Grounds: Funds to assist us with maintaining and developing our school facilities	\$30.00
School Donation: To support planning of special projects and provide additional resources for students	\$10.00
Total Other Contributions	\$70.00

2026 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Provided on a user-pays basis

Somerville Primary School 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.

These programs will include activities such as optional camps, excursions, incursions, Year 6 special uniforms, sports programs, graduation activities, etc.

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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

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

- Families can apply for State Government or community support programs such as the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), State Schools Relief (SSR), Westernport Community Support (applications open now until January-our school Chaplain Katharine Goschnick is there fortnightly on Thursday mornings)
- Payment plans can be arranged for Extra-Curricular Activities such as Camps and Excursions
- Second hand uniforms are available for sale at the office

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please feel comfortable to contact either: Jamie Sharp, Principal or Melissa Barrett, Business Manager via **Ph:** 03 5977 5421 or **Email:** somerville.ps@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 Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.

PAYMENT METHOD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution payments for 2026 will be sent out for payment via Compass using their Compass Pay facility.

Flexible contribution arrangements can be organised by contacting the school eg. Term Payments x 4, Semester Payments x 2

If you would like to confidentially discuss any other form of payment arrangement or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to support you.

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.