



Surf Coast Secondary College | Year 7 and 8 Parent Payment Arrangements 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Surf Coast Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Surf Coast Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

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 continue to offer the best possible education and support for our students.

Underpinning Surf Coast Secondary College's vision for excellence, is a commitment that all students have access to opportunities to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstance. This enables an approach to educational achievement, engagement, and wellbeing, which draws on best practice, evidence, and is responsive to local circumstances and needs.

Our College works in close partnership with our parent/carer community, and the broader school community, to provide the best educational opportunities and outcomes for students, both inside and outside the classroom. Through this partnership, parents/guardians understand that the contribution they make to their children's education, in all its various forms, has an important role in enriching the College's learning and teaching program and improving educational outcomes.

Our College continues to design and develop the learning and teaching programs drawing on the best educational knowledge and practices and we continue to strive to offer broad and enriched opportunities for students that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum. Learning and teaching programs may vary to reflect priorities, decisions, and needs, and this, in turn, informs parent payments as set by School Councils.

Within our school this support has allowed us to offer a wide range of subjects across the whole school and provide special curriculum-related and extra-curricular experiences for our students. Examples of these opportunities offered to our Year 7 and 8 students in 2022 included:

- Specialised Wellbeing Days focussed on supporting and developing student's mental and physical wellbeing
- Extra-curricular experiences including Dune Care and Biolab for our Year 7 students
- Visits to the Geelong Tech School for our Year 8 students
- Special curriculum-related experiences including practical scientific experiments in both years

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached. Should you have any questions regarding the 2023 Year 7 and 8 Parent Payment Arrangements, please contact the College via email at surf.coast.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Erin Wright
Principal

Chris Zois
School Council President

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The College recommends you purchase booklist items from *Winc (Back to School Provider)* for your child to individually own and use. These items include hard copy English novels and general stationery.

Please note that booklists will be provided in a separate document.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Surf Coast Secondary College 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 to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Inter School Sports (per student / per event)	\$15.00
College Yearbook (hard copy provided in December 2023)	\$20.00
Other optional camps and excursions to be scheduled throughout 2023.	
Activities may include (<i>costs are subject to change</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none">Camp (approximate cost \$400.00)	Various

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment Plans for extra-curricular items and activities

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact the College's Finance Team via email at accounts@scsc.vic.edu.au

Payment Methods

- Compass Online Payments** - through the Parent Portal (recommended method)
- Direct deposit** into the College's bank account (**BSB: 033 - 608 Acc #: 246907**)
- EFTPOS** (either in person or over the phone)
- BPay** – Please email accounts@scsc.vic.edu.au to request your personalised BPay details.
- Centre Pay** - Only available to holders of Centrelink Benefit Cards – This needs to be arranged by the card holder directly through Centrelink.

Refunds

Parent/carer 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.

A copy of the College's Refund Policy is available on our website at www.surfcoastsecondarycollege.vic.gov.au

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Statement of Account

Due to the Department of Education and Training's changes in the way schools process payments received from families, the College will no longer be in a position to provide families with a copy of their individualised statement or transaction history. Therefore, it is essential that families retain a copy of the receipt issued for each payment made. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

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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 Vocational Major.
- 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.