

Dear parent/guardian,

As we get ready for another exciting year of learning and growing together in 2026, we'd like to share some information about our voluntary financial contributions.

At Ballam Park Primary School, we're proud to offer free instruction that meets all curriculum requirements. While contributions are completely optional, the generous support from our families helps us go above and beyond for our students.

Thanks to your kindness—whether through donations, fundraising, or volunteering—we've been able to:

- Create engaging and well-structured classrooms
- Upgrade outdoor learning spaces
- Provide wonderful resources like art materials, musical instruments, sports equipment, and library books
- Enhance digital learning and strengthen literacy and numeracy programs

Your support truly makes a difference and helps us build a vibrant, nurturing environment where every child can thrive. We're so grateful to be part of a community that values education and works together to make our school the best it can be.

Payment Options

To make contributions as accessible as possible, families are welcome to pay in a way that suits them best. Options include:

- In full
- Weekly, monthly or other instalments
- Via Compass including via instalments
- EFTPOS at the school office
- Centrepay (for eligible families)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a payment plan, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We're looking forward to another fantastic year with you!

For more details, please refer to the attached one-page overview of the Department's Parent Payments Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Peita Cooper
Principal

Michaela Keating
School Council President

	Amount
Classroom Stationery Items consisting of pens/pencils, glue sticks, various writing books, graph and scrap books, highlighters, post-its, folders, display books, scissors, rulers, headphones, library bag.	\$90.00
Online subscriptions including Nessy, Smart Spelling, IXL, Maths resources	\$20.00
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$5.00
Whole school events • Athletics carnival • Cross Country	\$15.00
• Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, materials • Performing Arts – instruments, books, markers • STEM – equipment & shared materials • LOTE – books & shared materials • Sport – equipment, ribbons, materials • Library – books & subscriptions	\$50.00
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$180.00

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Sports Victoria affiliation	\$5.00
Student wellbeing programs	\$5.00
First aid equipment	\$5.00
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$5.00
Total Other Contributions	\$20.00

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Ballam Park 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.

The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year but will include events such as school camps, incursions, excursions and sports programs.

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- 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 our Business Manager, Sharryn Don.

Ph: 03 9789 5614 | Email: ballam.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$180.00
Other Contributions (<i>Non-tax deductible</i>)	\$20.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$ TBA

Payment methods

- Paying via Compass including instalments
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Paying via Centrepay – Centrelink
- the Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund – for those with current Health Care Cards (application forms available at the office)
- Payment accepted at the office via eftpos or cash

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.

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.