



PARENT PAYMENT POLICY – 2026

Parent Payment Arrangements

Senior Unit

November 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Big Hill Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Big Hill Primary School's 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. 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.

This year the school will be supplying the book pack stationery items. We kindly ask that you contribute to this cost with the suggested amount in the Curriculum Contributions Table on the next page. This cost covers all stationery required for the year, including pens, pencils, exercise books, writing books, headphones etc, that was formerly the booklist you purchased from Education Plus.

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

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Pearce

Principal

Annette Robinson

School Council President



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Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment (Stationery items)	\$80
Online subscriptions • Showbie (\$32) • Soundwaves (\$23) • Essential Assessment (\$20) • The Resilience Project (\$10) • Diary (\$13)	\$98
ICT devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets	\$125
Swimming and water safety program	\$TBA
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$5
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$308

Other Contributions - for Non-Curriculum items and activities	Amount
Library	\$5
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$15
Total Other Contributions	\$20

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

Big Hill 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.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Gym Program (estimated: \$45)	TBA
Incursions x 2 (estimated: \$10 each)	TBA
Major Excursion to be scheduled (estimated: \$50)	TBA
Year 5/6 Camp (estimated: \$400)	TBA
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$TBA



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Financial Support for Families

Big Hill 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 via Compass

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

Matthew Pearce

Ph: 03 5447 7022 | Email: matthew.pearce@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$308
Other Contributions	\$20
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$TBA
Total	\$328

Payment methods

Parents can pay the Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and the Extra-Curricular Items and Activities on Compass or at the Office via cash or EFTPOS from the beginning of 2026. The Office will be open on Launch Interview Day to start taking payments. Payments on Compass will be set up early January with the option of paying in full or instalments.

Parents are able to pay for items of significant cost by instalments (eg camps). CSEF recipients are able to use CSEF to pay for Camps, Sports, Excursions and Extra-Curricular Activities. Any School Saving Bonus left from 2025 can be used in 2026 towards Camps, Excursions and Extra-Curricular Activities.

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.