

FRANKSTON SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL

PARENT PAYMENT POLICY

Dear families,

Frankston Special Developmental School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Frankston Special Developmental school's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

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.

Frankston Special Developmental School is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth)* with the result that any donations made by you will be tax deductible. To be tax deductible, your donation needs to be made voluntarily. We have suggested an amount to be contributed under "Curriculum Contributions" and "Other Contributions" below, but please feel free to contribute an alternative amount. Amounts paid under "Extra-Curricular Items and Activities" are not donations and are not tax deductible.

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

Yours sincerely,

KRIS BAKER PRINCIPAL

MELISSA HOCKEY SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Curriculum Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper etc. (\$30) • Food tech – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc. (\$50) • Stationary including glue sticks, pencils, markers, textas. (\$40) 	\$120
ICT Devices – Student iPad program including online Subscriptions Reading eggs , Mathletics	\$50
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials – workbooks, social story books	\$40
Total	\$ 210

Other Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$70

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

Frankston Special Developmental 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.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Additional swimming lessons This is an optional and additional program to the swimming and water safety program that we provide students for free as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This is designed to further support students with their progress to learn to swim.	\$TBA
Camps and excursions to be scheduled (estimated: \$xx) [See requesting parent payments for camps and excursions one-page overview for more information]	\$TBA
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$TBA

Financial Support for Families

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

- The option to obtain no-cost **second-hand uniform** is provided to families once a year. Notification of this date is communicated via newsletter.
- Families are encouraged to access discount stores for low-cost uniforms. FSDS iron-on transfers are available at \$2.50ea for those purchasing their uniforms at discount stores.
- Camps, Sports and Excursion Form (CSEF). This fund is made available to parents or carers who hold a valid Health Care Card. Families can apply for the \$125 (primary) and \$225 (secondary) payment each year.
- State Schools Relief, a charity-based organisation that supplies uniform and shoes to students of families experiencing financial hardship. Families are asked to contact the Principal, Assistant Principal or Welfare Coordinator in order to complete the application.

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

Wendy Bice Business Manager

Ph: 03 97896844

Email: frankston.sds@education.vic.gov.au

Category	Amount
Curriculum Contributions	\$210
<u>Voluntary Contribution</u> Buildings and grounds	\$70
<u>TOTAL PARENT PAYMENT:</u>	\$280 per student

Payment arrangements and methods

Payment plans are available to families and can be negotiated in: weekly, monthly or termly instalments or as an annual payment. Payments can be made by cash, cheque and EFTPOS. Direct debit is available as per banking details on family statements.

Consideration of hardship

Maximising educational outcomes for all students of Frankston SDS is a priority. A family's inability to pay for essential school items will not result in their child being excluded from any activity considered essential to their education. The school will allocate an annual budget to cover the cost of programs for families experiencing financial hardship.

Families will be provided with the option to access this fund confidentially on an individual needs basis as negotiated with family, classroom teacher and Principal.

Communication with families

- The Family Payment Policy will be made available to the school community via the FSDS website.
- Family payment invoices will be distributed in accordance with Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines.
- The school will make provision to assist families with financial support options and advice on an individual needs basis.
- The school will maintain confidentiality in all matters related to family payments.

Monitoring and review of the implementation of the policy

Frankston SDS will monitor the effectiveness and impact of the implementation of this policy at least annually as part of its ongoing improvement and report back to the school community.

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.