



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Merino Consolidated School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of *Merino Consolidated School'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 offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to attend whole terms of gymnastics and taekwondo, Excursions to Penhurst, Hamilton and Portland and Mount Gambier, a wide array of incursions as well as excursions to Geelong and Ballarat for science.

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

Yours sincerely,

Genevieve Hulin

Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Genevieve Hulin", written in a cursive style.

Shaun Fidler

School Council President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Shaun Fidler", written in a cursive style.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Optional camps and excursions as scheduled throughout 2022. The cost of these excursions will be advised throughout the year.	To be advised
<p><i>Classroom Consumables, materials & equipment</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>See attached Booklist for year level costs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper (\$xx)</i> • <i>Science – resources and equipment (\$xx)</i> • <i>Mathematics – resources and Essential Assessment subscription (\$xx)</i> • <i>English – Resources and equipment and new class readers book (\$xx)</i> • <i>Sports – equipment (\$xx)</i> 	\$ As per booklist
<i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$10
<p><i>Whole school events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Swimming Lessons – entry and lesson \$40</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Four Weeks of swimming lessons at Merino Swimming Pool</i> - <i>if family/season ticket holder, membership card must be shown</i> 	\$40
<i>Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Levy</i>	\$25
<i>Stephanie Alexander Garden Levy</i>	\$15
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>Student wellbeing programs</i>	\$10
Total Amount	\$

Educational items for students to own

Attached is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase from Merino Consolidated School for your child to individually own and use.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Merino Consolidated School 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 in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please indicate on the table below and return this to the school by December 10th 2023.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount	Purchase (Please tick)
<i>Whole School Camp</i>	\$TBA	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		\$

Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Duncan McIntosh Foundation Scholarship

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

Genevieve Hulin

Principal

Ph: 03 55 791 305 | Email: merino.cs@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$
Other Contributions	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$

Payment methods

Commonwealth Bank

BSB – 063 - 513

Acc Number - 10380461

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 Payment 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 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.