2026 Financial Contributions Schedule – Primary

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Merbein P-10 College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for **Primary** students 2026.

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.

- Specialist software to support student learning
- ICT devices for students who are unable to provide their own
- A wide range of specialist subject programs
- Opportunities for students to access expert high-level coaching, and excursions to further enhance skills, development and knowledge in a range of subject areas
- Significant improvements to the grounds including synthetic courts, indoor gym, and playground upgrade.

Primary (Prep – 6) Voluntary Contribution for 2026 is **$100.00**

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chris Grimmer
Principal
31/10/2025

Mr Scott Gardiner
School Council President
31/10/2025

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Primary student classroom consumables, materials and equipment which will include • Exercise books ($10.00) • Scrap Books ($10.00) • Student Diary/Reading Diary and Book Boxes ($10.00) • Consumable items such as pencils, pens, erasers, glue sticks, textas, highlighters, colouring pencils etc. ($10.00) • Art Supplies – paper, cardboard, paint etc. ($5.00) • Sports – equipment ($5.00)	$50
Primary Online Subscriptions • Soundwaves ($13.00) • PAT testing ($5.00)	$18
ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets of netbooks/iPads and technical support.	$20
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	$10
Primary school events, incursions and excursions– pay per event (CSEF or SSB money can be used to pay for these if available)	$0
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	**Amount**
School Sports Victoria membership	$2
Total Amount	**$100**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Merbein P-10 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 in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	**Amount**
Other optional camps and excursions to be scheduled	TBA

Financial Support for Families

Merbein P-10 College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- the State Schools Relief Fund
- access to second-hand items where possible
- referral to welfare and support agencies

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

Teagan Ridgwell, Business Manager

Ph: 03 5025 2501 | Email: teagan.ridgwell@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

1.	**CompassPay**	Please click the link on your Compass Newsfeed for Course Confirmations/Payments to pay via Compass (available early 2026)
2.	**BPay**	Quote BPAY Biller code and Family Reference Number
3.	**Direct Deposit**	(Quote Family ID Reference Number or Student Full Name)
	Account Name:	Merbein P-10 College
	Bank:	Bendigo Bank
	BSB:	633 000
	Account Number:	176 208 320
4.	**Credit Card by Phone**	General Office on 5025 2501
5.	**In Person**	Cash/EFTPOS at the Administration Office

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. CSEF cannot be refunded to families. If a student transfers to another Victorian school, CSEF balances will be transferred to the new school. All other 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 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.