

November 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The 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 your generosity, whether that is through financial contributions, fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the extensive range of programs we can offer. The Department of Education provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary, nevertheless parent contributions are an essential element within this process and without this support we cannot maximise the learning opportunities for all students.

Weeden Heights Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of suggested financial contributions for 2024. Aware of cost-of-living pressures, and in an effort to support our families, School Council has decided 2024 contributions will remain unchanged from 2023 save for a small increase in online licences.

Within our school your contributions will allow us to offer and maintain:

- A wide range of *curriculum experiences* and specialist subjects (Visual Art, Performing Arts, STEAM, French, Physical Education and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program);
- Our intrinsic and valued wellbeing program including the engagement of a dedicated Wellbeing Officer catering for all students, families and staff;
- A mobile ICT lab complementing our BYOD program placing devices where the core learning is happening not only in the classroom but during specialist and enhancement activities as well;
- The upgrade of our outdoor learning and play areas.

In 2023 your ongoing support has allowed us to add the 'final touches' to our building works to complement and enhance the functionality of our new facilities for our students and staff. Looking forward to 2024, with your support we hope to:

- Upgrade our school library to create a fresh and engaging new learning space for our students
- Create an area devoted to multi-media and artificial intelligence to best equip our students for the future;
- Commence investment into new outdoor play and learning equipment; and
- Replace aging appliances in our SAKG kitchen facility.

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

School Council appreciates the wonderful tradition of strong parental support. Indeed, we rely heavily on your support to help supplement government funds to meet the individual needs, talents and aspirations of your children. The suggested curriculum contributions detailed in the 2024 Statement of Student Education Contributions amounts to \$2.45 a day, significantly less than your cup of coffee! Your continued generosity will make an enormous difference in our quest to provide and deliver an excellent range of innovative and challenging programs, within an engaging and dynamic learning environment that maximises the learning opportunities of all students.

Thank you sincerely for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Kylie Campbell
Principal

Gavin Hodgins
School Council President

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Telephone: 9802 0663
Email: weeden.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au

2024 Statement of Student Education Contributions

Curriculum Contributions – items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the curriculum	Amount
<p>Consumables, materials & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom – Shared stationery, paper, posters/charts, craft items, classroom libraries (texts & activities), incentives and rewards • English - Book boxes and targeted reading texts • Mathematics – numeracy blocks, Individual kits including playing cards, dice, counting frames, classroom manipulative equipment and resources • Visual Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, cardboard, pencils, crayons, paints, inks, clay, wire, tape, fabric • Performing Arts - Provision of class sets of musical instruments, costumes, set props, recording and production resources • STEAM – chemicals, batteries, construction materials, provision of shared classroom robotic/electronic resources • Physical Education & Sports – Specialist coaching, equipment & incentives • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program - Ingredients & miscellaneous kitchen consumables, provision of aprons, gloves, utensils, garden consumables and equipment • French - Reading texts, games, craft and food items 	\$235.00
<p>Online Licences and Subscriptions – Matific, Literacy Planet, PAT Testing, Compass & Essential Assessments</p>	\$72.50
<p>ICT Devices – provision of devices from shared classroom sets - Chromebooks, iPads, Multi-media and interactive platforms, Peripherals, Cameras, Printers, Configuration and maintenance of Google Management System, general maintenance, server/system costs</p>	\$145.00 OR \$50 + Voluntary BYOD program
<p>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</p>	\$10.00
<p>Sub Total - \$462.50 per child OR \$367.50 + BYOD per child</p>	\$
<p>Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities</p>	
<p>First aid - equipment and supplies</p>	\$5.00
<p>Student wellbeing programs – School funded Wellbeing Officer and welfare program <i>Suggested - \$135 per student or \$270 per family</i></p>	\$ (Insert Amount)
<p>Working Bee Contribution: A contribution to support school grounds maintenance and improvements in lieu of attendance. <i>Suggested - \$100 per family in lieu of attendance at all working bees OR \$50 per family together with attendance at least 2 scheduled working bees.</i></p>	\$ (Insert Amount)
<p>Sub Total</p>	\$
<p>Tax deductible contributions</p>	
<p>Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure. <i>Suggested - \$30 per student OR \$50 per family.</i></p>	\$ (Insert Amount)
<p>Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource. <i>Suggested - \$60 per student OR \$110 per family.</i></p>	\$ (Insert Amount)
<p>Sub Total</p>	\$
<p>Total Amount</p>	\$

Educational items for students to own ~ Student Book Packs

Weeden Heights Primary School is no longer able to provide families with the option to purchase book packs and personal use items via the school. We have provided separately a list of items that the school recommends you purchase and provide for your child to **individually own and use**. All items should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Weeden Heights Primary 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. Proposed Extra-Curricular items and activities include:

- Camps, excursions and incursions
- Senior school interschool sports program
- Sporting events and activities
- Whole school swimming program
- School Magazine
- Year 6 graduation

Mindful of expenses at this time of year, and also to ensure that the best possible value for money is obtained on your behalf, extra-curricular items and activities have not been included costed at this time. Full details and cost will be provided when scheduled.

Financial Support for Families

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

- Personalised payment plans
- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief Fund
- Local community support and grants when available.

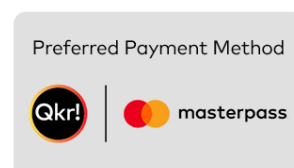
For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact either Kerry Cheetham (Business Manager) or Cindy Lim (Administration Officer) by phone on 9802 0663 or email at weeden.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

- **QKR**

Reference No: _____

Payment Date: _____



- **Direct Deposit**

Weeden Heights Primary School | BSB 033127 | A/C 950506
Please include Family Name as reference

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds for 'user-pay' items 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.

FAQs

2024 Curriculum Contributions & Booklists

Question	Answer
Why do parents need to buy their own booklist?	The Department of Education has changed its policy in relation to schools purchasing student booklists for families. Schools are no longer able to purchase student booklists on behalf of their families and on sell them. Parents must now buy their own booklist. Weeden Heights is bound by this policy.
Do I need to provide everything on the booklist?	Yes, however, items purchased by families this year belong to the students. Many of these items can be used in future years (pens, pencils, sharpeners etc) and should therefore reduce booklist costs in future years for families.
What does the Curriculum Contribution pay for?	<p>The Curriculum Contributions pay for shared resources, including classroom stationery, art and craft materials, reading texts, maths, science and sports equipment, musical instruments, kitchen and garden supplies for use in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, maintenance and upkeep of class sets of ICT devices and online licences, printing and other core requirements.</p> <p><i>The suggested contribution of \$430 equals approximately \$10.25 per student per week, \$2.05 per student per day – significantly less than your cup of coffee!</i></p>
Do I need to pay both the Curriculum Contribution and buy the booklist?	<p>Yes, students still require the materials contained in the curriculum contributions to be able to be involved in the different subject areas across the school. For students to fully participate in their learning, parents need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy the school booklist and • Pay the curriculum contribution
Do I still need to contribute towards ICT if I have purchased a BYOD device for my child to use?	<i>Yes, however students with a BYOD device pay a significantly reduced charge. This covers the cost of technical support and configuration to enrol in the school's Management System that will provide all Chrome Extensions/Apps that your child will be using and access to iPads, cameras, multi-media, printers, etc.</i>
Can I pay the Curriculum Contributions later or in instalments?	Parents should contact the school office on 9802 0663 to discuss any concerns.
Why is there a cost for the Wellbeing Officer?	<p>Parent, Student and Staff surveys have consistently supported and praised our extensive Wellbeing Program at Weeden Heights. The program includes our dedicated Welfare Officer offering support to students, families and staff as needed, our Buddy program, Kids Coach, wellbeing focus and activities. Our Welfare Program has assisted students in the classroom and in the yard with social interactions and families in need with mentoring and advice, housing, food packages, and securing ICT equipment.</p> <p>Our Weeden Heights Welfare Office is employed and paid for directly by the School, not by the Department of Education.</p> <p>Up until 2020 Weeden Heights received a Government grant to support its wellbeing program, which was used to employ the Wellbeing Officer. This funding was discontinued at the end of 2020.</p> <p>School Council invites parents to make a contribution to the wellbeing program to ensure its continuation at Weeden Heights. It is an expensive program to run, but very much valued and needed in this current climate.</p>

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.