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Dear parent/guardian,

Dandenong Valley Special Development School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the 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.

Within our school this support has allowed us to provide excellent educational and specialised programs aimed to develop the talents and capacities of our students.

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- SWPB (School Wide Positive Behaviour)
- Transition program
- Therapy programs
- PMP (Perpetual Motor Program)
- Physical Education
- Bike Education
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Hydrotherapy and swimming

We want to thank you for all your support, which makes a huge difference to our school and the comprehensive programs we can offer.

Our 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,

Rhonda Rawlings
Principal

Tracey Hallett
School Council President



Curriculum Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
General classroom materials and equipment (e.g., shared classroom stationery, paper, posters/charts, craft items, classroom libraries, readers, sensory items) Subject specific materials and equipment (e.g., materials for English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Music, Technology, Food Technology) Provision and upkeep of school devices, peripherals and ICT (e.g., devices owned by the school, class sets, device configuration, maintenance, server/system costs) Communication tools (e.g., Poddle book, assistive technology devices, aided language displays, managing behaviour displays) Photocopying and printing for students (e.g., printed learning resources) Curriculum activities (e.g., excursions, incursions, camps, community access, whole-school carnivals - including transport and entry) Digital and online subscriptions for learning Supplementary classes within the school's swimming and water safety program and associated costs Student ID cards Student planners / Yearbook /Communication books	\$300 Juniors \$340 Middles \$380 Seniors
	Amount
Total tax-deductible Curriculum Contributions	\$ <i>[parent to complete]</i>

Other Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Total tax-deductible Other Contributions	\$0 <i>[parent to complete]</i>

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

Dandenong Valley SDS 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 to deliver the Curriculum.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Optional items to keep (e.g. School photos) Optional Extra-Curricular Activities - school based (e.g. camps, excursions, incursions, guest speakers, sport carnivals and events) <i>Payment will be requested nearer the activity date</i>	TBA
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	TBA



Financial Support for Families

Dandenong Valley SDS understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Second hand and low-cost options e.g., school clothing pool
- State Schools Relief
- Local community supports

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

Rhonda Rawlings - Principal Rebecca Dunn – Acting Business Manager

Ph: 03 9704 4800

Email: dandenong.valley.sds@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	Total recommended amount	Total payment
Total tax-deductible contributions	\$	\$ <i>[parent to complete]</i>
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$ TBA	\$ TBA
Total	\$	\$ <i>[parent to complete]</i>

Payment methods

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, BPAY, Direct Deposit into the school's bank account or EFTPOS over the phone or in person.



For **BPAY** options
please contact the
school for details

Direct Deposit Details

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 033-222

Account: 020200

NB: Please use your child's first initial and surname as a reference/description.

Refunds

Requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents will be considered on a case-by-case basis considering the individual circumstances. Generally, we will not be able to refund payments made for items purchased or costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred to a third party. For example, camp costs when a child becomes unwell cannot attend, in circumstances where the payment has already been made or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will make this clear to parents at the time of payment.

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.