

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we look towards the new academic year, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support of our school community. Many of you have contacted our local MP to express concerns about the low level of funding public schools receive, volunteered at school events, or made contributions. These actions have had a positive impact.

Our 2024 Attitudes to School student survey data shows that students' positive perceptions of Fairhills High School are higher than those at other schools. It is particularly pleasing to see that "Stimulated Learning" is now 10% above similar schools, 16% above our network, and 7% above state averages. This result reflects our efforts to develop innovative programs, such as VEX Robotics. Your contributions allow us to provide the resources needed to offer these engaging opportunities to our students.

Government schools provide free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum. However, to continue enhancing the educational experience we offer, we are asking you to consider making a contribution to our school. Your support directly funds various programs, resources, and activities that benefit our students, including STEM, art and sports equipment, state-of-the-art IT facilities, breakfast clubs, team-building activities, and specialist programs.

While contributions are voluntary, they play a crucial role in helping us maintain and improve the quality of education we provide. Every contribution makes a difference and is deeply appreciated.

For more information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy, please refer to the attached one-page overview.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and students. Together, we can continue to positively impact their educational journey.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Van Schie
Principal



Nicole Blanchard
School Council President

2025 Year 9 Contributions

Year 9 Curriculum Contributions <i>Important items and activities that the students use, or participate in, to access the curriculum</i>	Annual Amount per STUDENT	CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classroom Consumables - <i>All Year 9 students participate in these subjects</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Digital Technology eg software (\$30) ○ Art - eg paint, canvas, crayons, glitter, coloured paper etc (\$50) ○ Electives as per course selection – these will be posted on Compass ▪ Printing and photocopying of worksheets and materials (\$20) ▪ Learning Support subscriptions: eg clickview, mathlit, Quicksmart (\$40) ▪ Provision and upkeep of school devices and ICT eg devices owned by the school, class sets, device configuration, maintenance, and server/system costs (\$80) 	\$220	\$
Other Contributions <i>Non curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives</i>	Annual Amount per STUDENT	CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Sports Victoria membership (\$16) ▪ Student and Parent Communication tool – Compass (\$50) ▪ Student Wellbeing support programs – respectful relationships, cyber bullying, anger management, counselling supports (\$80) ▪ Breakfast Club (\$10) ▪ House Group activities – eg end of term BBQ's, activities and prizes (\$10) ▪ First Aid equipment – eg ice packs, bandages, excursion first aid kits (\$10) 	\$176	\$
Required Program - Connect		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 9 Connect Program - \$260. Full day program on Wednesdays, providing students with a broad range of skills to equip themselves for an ever-changing world. Program includes 15 excursions and incursions as well as a 3-day City Experience. <i>Payment will be via a separate Compass event. Payment plan available.</i> <i>Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) can be used towards this for eligible CSEF students</i> 		
Student ID Card		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student ID Card – includes PTV concession (\$20) <i>Details via Compass event</i> 		

Tax Deductible Contributions <i>Per family recommendations</i>	Annual Amount per STUDENT	CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building fund (to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure) - <i>Suggested contribution \$100</i> ▪ Library fund (to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource) - <i>Suggested contribution \$50</i> 	Family choice or as per suggestion	
Extra Curriculum Items and Activities <i>Payment for extra curriculum items and activities will be via separate Compass events</i>	Annual Amount per STUDENT	CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Athletics Day – whole school activity (\$15) ▪ Interschool Sports program - each student who participates in an interschool sporting event will be required to pay \$20 per event. ▪ Instrumental Music (\$200) ▪ Instrument Hire (\$50) ▪ Year 9 excursions and incursions – to be scheduled <p><i>Details via Compass event</i> <i>Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) and School Savings Bonus can be used towards camps and excursions</i></p>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$

Please return this form to the Office if you **ARE NOT** paying via Compass: Payment Centre.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

I will be paying by:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Credit card: Please debit my card NOW or on ____ / ____ / ____ (please indicate date) Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____ CCV ____ For the amount of \$ _____ Cardholder Name: _____</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Instalment Plan</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Electronically via BPAY</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>EFTPOS, direct deposit, cash, check payments directly to Fairhills High School Office</p>

Payment Methods

Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Fairhills High School. Payment can be made the following ways:

- Compass: Payment Centre
- Electronically via BPAY. Please email Fairhills.hs@education.vic.gov.au for your personalised details.
- EFTPOS, direct deposit, cash, and cheque payments can be made directly at Fairhills High School Office.
- Instalment Plans are available. Please return this form to the Office and the school will contact you to arrange your plan.

Educational items for students to own

Below is a list of items that the school recommends each individual student purchases:

- Laptop <https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/learning/digital-learning/>
- Subject textbooks / Stationery / Calculator (as indicated in the Booklist) <https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/our-school/policies-and-documents/>
- School Uniform <https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/uniform/>
- VET resources (Year 10-12 only)

Financial Support for Families

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

- State Schools' Relief provides financial support
- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions
- School Savings Bonus - \$400

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact Accounts Receivable on 03 9758 5022, or email Fairhills.hs@education.vic.gov.au

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 for the current school year. <https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/FIN5-Refunds-Policy.pdf>

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

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.