FAIRHILLS
HIGH SCHOOL
KNOX

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Fairhills High School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Fairhills High School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: the General Office on 9758 5022 fairhills.hs@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 9758 5022. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Bill Exton
Acting Principal

Nicole Blanchard
School Council President

2027 Year 9 Voluntary Contributions

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.
We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions
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Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	$345	$[parent to complete]

Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	$50	$[parent to complete]
Voluntary - Library fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements	$50	$[parent to complete]

Extra-curricular items and activities

Fairhills High School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events like formals.

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
Yr 9 Connect Program 15 Excursions		$65 per term	
Schools Sports Victoria program		$16	
Other excursions, activities & programs as per Compass notifications			
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities			

Learning Materials for students to own

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Fairhills High School has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy: Lilydale Books.

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please go to: Lilydale Books .

If you would like to buy items to own that are not from this supplier, you can contact Dr Peter Morgan at peter.morgan3@education.vic.gov.au for information about editions of textbooks and/or calculator specifications that will be used.

Digital subscriptions:

Fairhills High School uses the below digital subscriptions for learning. You can buy a subscription directly if you want:

- Education Perfect can be purchased from Lilydale Books - see booklist
- Edrolo can be purchased from Lilydale Books – see booklist

If you do not buy a subscription, your child will be provided with access to what they need for their learning.

Digital devices:

Fairhills High School uses digital devices to support learning. You are able to buy or lease a device for your child to own. If you do not buy or lease a device, your child will be provided with access as they need for their learning, but it may not be one-to-one, to take home, or to keep.
You can find information about the digital devices our school recommends, including minimum device specifications, at Learning with Technologies
You can buy or lease the digital device from Learning with Technologies for $978 to $1150.01.
You can also buy a device meeting these specifications from any other retailer.

Financial help for families

Notes for drafting this section: The Financial Help for Families policy requires schools to develop and communicate arrangements that support families experiencing financial hardship. Schools must put in place strategies to identify families experiencing hardship, while promoting their dignity, exercising sensitivity and confidentiality of their circumstances.

Fairhills High School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- Affordable School Uniforms - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.
For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:
General Office
Ph: 03 9758 5022 | Email: Fairhills.hs@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Fairhill High School contributions are outlined in our Compass payment portal for each student. Payment methods include the Compass Portal, over the phone via credit card, or in person by credit card or cash at the general office.

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

If you would like to pay for extra-curricular items and activities through instalments, please use the payment plan/s as published on Compass.

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 Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools must provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link the department's Parent Contributions policy.