

December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Heatherwood School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Heatherwood School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

At Heatherwood School we are very proud of the quality programs and learning environment we provide for our students. On an annual basis School Council endorses a budget to provide resources for educational programs, administration, facilities development, and maintenance. Whilst Government funding based on the number of students enrolled covers the majority of the school's operations, additional funds are required to enable the school to continue to provide a high standard of facilities and resources.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. We want to thank you for all your support through contribution of voluntary payments to date and assure you this has provided invaluable support to our school and the programs we can offer in order to provide the best possible education for our students.

Within our school this support has allowed us to a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences, enhanced digital learning opportunities, expanded protective behaviour program and specialised resources to support individual learning programs.

Heatherwood 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" 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,



Paul Hills
Principal



Rosanna Pingitore
School Council President

Heatherwood School
Number 4871

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Curriculum Contributions - suggested tax-deductible contributions for items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Diary/Communication book	\$20.00
Student Identification Card	\$ 5.00
General classroom supplies	\$50.00
Scrapbooks (or similar)	\$10.00
Technology renewal	\$20.00
Photocopying	\$20.00
School Buses (to access the community)	\$80.00
Woodwork/craft (years 7-10 only)	\$20.00**
Mathletics (years 7-10 only)	\$15.00**
Contribution towards the school's provision of VCAL/Vet (years 11-12 only)	\$35.00**
Total	\$240.00
Homeskills (cooking & house program) for years 7-10	\$120.00
Tax deductible contributions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation <p>Heatherwood School is registered as a charitable organisation for tax deduction purposes. Donations are used for items such as building & grounds beautification, maintaining an up to date bus fleet and innovated programs to name a few.</p> <p>If you feel able to make a donation to the school, in addition to the contributions, this would also be tax deductible and gratefully accepted.</p>	\$
Total tax-deductible Amount	\$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Heatherwood 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.

If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please indicate on the table below and return this to the school

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount	Purchase (Please tick)
<i>School magazine/ yearbook</i>	\$25.00	
<i>Optional school camp – Information to follow at later date</i>	TBA	
<i>Other optional excursions to be scheduled - Information to follow when applicable</i>	TBA	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		\$

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Financial hardship support

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

Kaye Shilcock, Business Manager

Ph: 03 9842 8319

Email: heatherwood.sch@education.vic.gov.au

Category	Total payment
Total tax-deductible contributions	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$
Total	\$

Payment methods

Heatherwood School accepts cash, cheque, eftpos or direct deposit into the school bank account.

Heatherwood School

BSB: 063 146

Account Number: 1007 4922

Reference: Student's name or student code

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.

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.