Yarra Ranges Special Developmental School
Celebrating Ability

PO Box 19, Mt Evelyn Vic 3796 I 20 Burdap Drive, Mt Evelyn Vic 3796
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ABN: 50 554 025 216 I School Number: 015246

20th October 2025

Dear parent/guardian,

PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2026

Yarra Ranges Special Developmental School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum 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. We want to thank you for all you support throughout previous years including your financial contributions to the school. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer our students.

Within our school, this support has allowed us to run additional experiences such as our Swim Squad programs at neighbouring pools, run our buses to minimise costs camp and excursion costs for families, run our Bike Education program, enhance our digital learning opportunities and upgrade our grounds and play equipment.

Our School Council carefully examines and evaluates our Parent Payment Policy each year, taking into account the cost of items required to deliver our curriculum, those items that will benefit our students and the financial pressure on our families. Every item on our list has been thoroughly costed and buying materials in bulk helps keep these costs to an absolute minimum.

Yarra Ranges SDS is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth)* with the result that any contribution made by you will be tax deductible. To be tax deductible, your contribution 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,

Tammy French
Principal

Cara Manion
School Council President

LOWER PRIMARY, UPPER PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

Curriculum Contributions –items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum (tax deductible)	**Amount**
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment • *Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glue, glitter, coloured paper etc $45* • *Technology – gardening tools, plants etc $25* • *Food Tech – food ingredients such as flour, butter, milk etc $35* • *Sports – equipment $25*	$130
Online Subscriptions • *Reading Eggs $30* • *Mathseeds $35*	$65
Communication tools upgrade – PODD books, assistive technology devices, displays	$30
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	$20
Total Curriculum Contributions	**$245**
Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities (tax deductible)	**Amount**
First Aid and hygiene equipment	$40
Deductible Gift Recipient Fund. *A contribution to support the upgrading of equipment, playgrounds and upgrading our bus fleet.*	$50
Total Other Contributions	**$90**
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (not tax deductible)	**Amount**
Annual School Magazine	$5
Total Amount	**$340**

Financial Support for Families
Yarra Ranges SDS understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Payment Plans
- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State School's Relief

For a confidential conversation about accessing a support option, or discussion an alternative payment arrangement, please contact our school's Business Manager, on 9736 2499.

Payment methods
Payments can be made by EFTPOS or cash at the school office, by Direct Deposit to the school's bank account or by BPay (please contact the office for your BPay code and reference).

Bank Account: Yarra Ranges SDS Council
BSB: 083-001
Account: 876 137 618
Reference: 2026 & your child's name

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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.