

Tuesday November 12th, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Rushworth P-12 College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Rushworth P-12 College's voluntary financial contributions for 2025

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. We want to thank you for all your support, especially volunteering your time and engaging in open days and school events. This community engagement has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support allows us to provide exciting and engaging lunchtime clubs and activities that appeal to a broad range of students along with extensive upgrades to our gardens and grounds

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Bovell,
Acting Principal

John Meguyer,
School Council President

Educational items for students to own

Attached is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase from Campion for your child to individually own and use.

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

Rushworth P-12 College offers a range of optional 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 |
|--|--------------|
| Uniform - Standard | \$150 |
| Uniform – Specialist/Year Level | \$45 |
| Excursions/Incursion | \$60 |
| Camp Contribution | \$145 |
| Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities | \$400 |

Financial Support for Families

Rushworth P-12 College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- School Saving Bonus (SSB)
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

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

Therese Cossens, Business Manager

Ph: 03 5856 1230 | Email: Therese.Cossens@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

BPay

CSEF

EFTPOS/Credit Card

Cash

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 Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

CSEF

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

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 | 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.