



Castlemaine
Primary School 0119

Castlemaine Primary School
Mostyn Street. Castlemaine.
P.O. Box 448. Castlemaine. Vic. 3450
(03) 5472 1452
castlemaine.ps@education.vic.gov.au

November 2025

Dear Castlemaine Primary School Community,

Re: 2026 Voluntary Financial Contributions

As we prepare for another exciting year of teaching and learning at Castlemaine Primary School in 2026, we want to take a moment to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for the incredible support you provide to our school. Whether through fundraising, volunteering your time, or making voluntary financial contributions, your involvement makes a genuine difference in the opportunities we can offer our students.

Every Victorian government school provides free instruction to deliver the standard curriculum. However, every year we rely on voluntary contributions from our families to help us go above and beyond. We are proud that we deliver an exceptional educational experience, and these voluntary contributions ensure our children have access to high-quality resources, programs, and experiences that make learning engaging and inspiring.

Your contributions help us provide:

- A wide range of interschool sporting opportunities
- Lunchtime clubs that cater to diverse student interests
- Enhanced digital learning experiences
- Access to research-based programs and resources
- Professional and creative learning opportunities across the Arts

The Chromebook leasing program will continue in 2026. Families of students in Grades 3–5 are encouraged to make a \$100 co-contribution towards their child's Chromebook. If payments are made each year, students will be able to keep their device when they graduate. We are proud to offer a 1:1 computer program—something not all local schools can provide—ensuring every student has consistent access to the digital tools that support modern learning.

We understand that financial circumstances can vary, and we want to reassure you that no child will ever miss out due to financial reasons. Additionally, State Schools' Relief provides vouchers to assist with school uniforms and essential items while families can also gain support for activities through CSEF applications.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about State School Relief, CSEF, or the financial contributions, please don't hesitate to contact Sally at 5472 1452 or email us at Castlemaine.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Payments Policy, please refer to the attached one-page overview or visit: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy>.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership and support. Together, we can ensure that every child at Castlemaine Primary School has access to the best possible education and experiences.

Here's to another fantastic year ahead at Castlemaine Primary!

Warm regards,

Kate Ward
Principal

Steve Payne
School Council President



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.



Voluntary Contributions - SUMMARY

The following tables provide a summary of the different voluntary contributions. They can be paid in a lump sum or over the course of the year. Detailed information about how voluntary contributions are calculated is contained overleaf.

Stationery packs to be ordered ONLINE by Friday 12th December 2025

- The order form for your child's stationery pack is attached.
- **Please order the workbooks detailed on the order form as these support your child's specific stage of development.**
- Other items can be ordered individually or as a complete pack. Please check with your child or classroom teacher before ordering items such as scissors, whiteboards and book boxes.

Total contributions per year level – suggested amounts - payment by end Term 1 2026 is ideal

Prep	\$165
1	\$165
2	\$165
3	\$295
4	\$295
5	\$295
6	\$195

Tax deductible contributions – can be made any time

Library Fund <i>To upgrade library facilities and provide resources for literacy learning.</i> *Receipt available upon request	\$50 per family (suggested amount)
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Extra- Curricular Items and Activities – to be paid throughout the year for activities

- The items identified overleaf are listed to provide an idea of what additional costs can be expected over the course of the year.
- Extra-curricular items and activities are opt- in.



Voluntary Contributions - DETAILS

The following tables contain detailed information about how voluntary contributions are calculated.

Curriculum Contributions – items and activities to enhance students' education	Amount
English	\$10
French	\$10
Mathematics	\$10
Music and Performing Arts	\$10
Physical Education	\$10
Science and Humanities	\$10
Visual Arts	\$20
Wellbeing	\$20
Total:	\$100
Grades 3-6 Online Subscriptions:	
Essential Assessment	\$15
My Literacy	\$15
Total:	\$30
Grades 3-5	
Computer Leasing Co-contribution	\$100
Total:	\$100

Other Contributions – for non-curriculum related items and activities	Amount
First aid Supplies	\$5
Buildings and grounds maintenance	\$50
Lunchtime Clubs	\$5
Sports Equipment	\$5
Total:	\$65

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on an opt in basis

The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year. The following list provides approximate costs only.

Extra- Curricular Items and Activities	Amount (approx.)
3-6 Interschool Sporting Events	\$25
P-2 Interschool Sporting Events	\$15
5-6 Preparation for Puberty incursion	\$50
Grade 6 Graduation	\$30
Swimming Programme Transport	\$40
Whole School Incursions	\$30
2-6 end of year parties	\$15
School Magazine	\$20
School Concert	\$20



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Total: Prep-1

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$100
Other Contributions	\$65
TOTAL	\$165
Additional Extra Curriculum Items and Activities as advised throughout the year	\$125 (approx.)

Total: Grade 2

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$100
Other Contributions	\$65
TOTAL	\$165
Additional Extra Curriculum Items and Activities as advised throughout the year	\$140 (approx.)

Total: Grade 3

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$230
Other Contributions	\$65
TOTAL	\$295
Additional Extra Curriculum Items and Activities as advised throughout the year	\$ 150 (approx.)

Total: Grade 4

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$230
Other Contributions	\$65
TOTAL	\$295
Additional Extra Curriculum Items and Activities as advised throughout the year	\$150 (approx.)



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Total: Grade 5

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$230
Other Contributions	\$65
TOTAL	\$295
Additional Extra Curriculum Items and Activities as advised throughout the year	\$ 200 (approx.)

Total: Grade 6

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$130
Other Contributions	\$65
TOTAL	\$195
Additional Extra Curriculum Items and Activities as advised throughout the year	\$230 (approx.)

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