

2026 YEAR 1

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Doncaster Gardens Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our school's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

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 is able to offer the best possible education and support for all students. We want to thank you for this ongoing support. It continues to make a huge difference to our school and the programs, resources, and opportunities that we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to continue to provide enhanced learning opportunities, rich experiences, and a diverse range of resources for our students. Doncaster Gardens makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for our parent community.

Within our school in 2026, the financial contributions will assist with: -

- Providing enhanced learning opportunities including targeting student point of need teaching including our student excellence program. This includes Maths Extension program, Orchestra, Choir, leadership programs, Productions, and extra curricular activities.
- Enabling a diverse range of materials especially online subscriptions to be purchased for each child, used both onsite and remotely. Without your support, these online subscriptions would need to be reduced.
- Providing an ICT Centre, coding materials, photocopier in the Year 6 area for student use, purchasing and maintenance of items such as iPads and printers.
- Providing Internet security to student devices and technical support for student/school devices onsite during school hours.
- Providing one off unique opportunities in the Arts such as Performances and tasks such as Ceramics (using our kiln).
- Providing wellbeing and mental health supports and resources.
- Providing medical support and first aid for all students throughout the school day.
- Providing neat, clean, and safe grounds and learning/play spaces.

In 2026, your contributions will also purchase all stationery required by your child throughout the year. This will be delivered to the school. No further book pack items will be required to be purchased.

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

Yours sincerely

Sue McSweeney
Principal

Brendon Dimasi
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions (Year 1) - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<u>General classroom materials and equipment</u> (writing books, exercise book, scrap books, lead pencils, correction pencils, highlighter, coloured pencils, twistable pencils, textas, ruler, glue sticks, scissors, sharpener, pencil case, sticky notes, display book, document wallet, shared classroom stationery, paper, posters/charts, craft items)	\$95
<u>Subject specific materials and equipment</u> - English – Writing Portfolio, Handwriting Book, Soundwaves Phonics Workbook, Reader Log Book, Readers/Books - Maths – maths resources - Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper - LOTE – paper, exercise book, drawing materials, individual art tasks - Music/Drama – paper, drawing materials, music, use of instruments - Personal and Social Learning – Wellbeing Journal - Physical Education – use of sport equipment, staffing for sport events - Science – Science experiment materials - Technology - sustainability, humanities, food, Makerspace tasks	\$149
<u>Curriculum Activities</u> (Year Level curriculum specific activities) House Athletics	\$11
<u>Digital and online subscriptions for learning</u> <u>Literacy</u> - Sunshine Online - Reading Eggs - Soundwaves <u>Numeracy</u> - Matific - Matharoo <u>Online Tools</u> - School Talk - Purple Mash/Serial Mash	\$38 \$19 \$23
<u>Assessments</u> Essential Assessment	\$20
<u>Provision and upkeep of school devices, peripherals and ICT</u> - Devices – provision of ICT devices and equipment that is school owned eg. Photocopier, printers, 3D printer, ICT Lab, Robotics materials - ICT equipment, infrastructure and support	\$20
<u>Photocopying and printing for students</u> (e.g. printed learning resources) Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials including research information	\$15
TOTAL CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS	\$390

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Student and parent communication tools – Compass Compass is used as our main communication tool, allowing timely distribution of the school newsletter as well as newsfeeds, notification and payment/consent portal for student events, as well as recording student attendance data.	\$10
Student wellbeing and mental health supports These funds are used to support student health and wellbeing.	\$50
School buildings and grounds maintenance and enhancement These funds are used towards maintaining school buildings and grounds including internal maintenance such as painting and general building repairs, as well as grounds works such as garden and lawn maintenance and playground upkeep. These funds also contribute to upgrades and enhancements such as replacement carpet, the outdoor table tennis tables and additions to play spaces.	\$50
Library maintenance and enhancement Contributions towards the library enable us to purchase books and resources for student use, including books relevant to student interests and current year short listed books, as well as literacy resources relevant to classroom learning.	\$10
First Aid support and equipment These contributions enable us to purchase first aid supplies for student use and to have a fully supervised First Aid Room.	\$50
School Assistance Fund Families are invited to make a contribution towards the School Assistance Fund, to provide opportunities or everyday items for students from families experiencing financial hardship or adverse circumstances, to attend school and access opt-in year level events.	\$10
TOTAL OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$180
TOTAL	\$570

Educational items for students to own

Below is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase from third party providers for your child to individually own and use.

Headphones

Headphones compatible with the iPad for students to use in the classroom can be purchased through the JB HiFi Accessories Portal, or another third party provider.

Headphones must be plug in. Please do not purchase bluetooth headphones.

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

Doncaster Gardens Primary 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 to deliver the Curriculum.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount	
Excursions / incursions	\$200	These amounts are only estimates and parents will be advised at the time of the event the exact costings. Therefore, no payment is required at the start of the year.
Swimming	\$100	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		\$TBC

Financial Support for Families

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

- The school's second-hand uniform sales, State Schools Relief and the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Flexible payment arrangements

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

Sue McSweeney, Principal

Ph: 03 9848 5282 | Email: susan.mcsweeney@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$390
Other Contributions	\$180
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	TBC

Payment methods

Payments can be made using one of the following 2 options:

Option A - full amount

Option B - make an appointment to discuss flexible payment arrangements

All parent payments and contributions can be made via COMPASS, BPay or debit/credit card at the school's office.

Refunds

Parent requests for credit are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis.

The refund policy is available under school documentation on Compass.

All events that are bulk charged or where SSB funds have been used can only be credited in a limited number of circumstances and by discretion of the Principal.

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.