



November 2021

Dear parent/guardian,

Maryborough Education Centre is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Maryborough Education Centre's voluntary financial contributions for 2022.

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 your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to continue to provide a greater offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences; enhanced digital learning opportunities; the upgrade of our WIFI infrastructure and internet to allow students to maximise their Bring Your Own Device within the school.

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

Yours sincerely,

David Sutton
Principal

Anita Ford
School Council President



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><i>Specialist classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue & pencils • Technology – Specialist TV program resources, textiles, construction materials, gardening tools and plants • Science – microscopes, materials used to complete experiments • Food Tech – food ingredients such as flour, butter • Mathematics – MAS numeracy blocks, Lego, jigsaw puzzles, measuring tools, scales etc. • Sports – sporting and physical activity equipment, U-scooters, mobility tricycles and mobility bicycles • Sensory items – wobble stools, sensory boards, sensory lighting, data projector wheels and fine motor tools 	<p>(\$300)</p> <p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
<p><i>Specialist online Subscriptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Eggs (\$10) • Mathseeds (\$30) • Mathletics (\$10) 	<p>(Max up to \$50)</p> <p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
<p><i>Specialist ICT Devices – iPads and computers, provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</i></p>	<p>(\$115)</p> <p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
<p><i>Specialist communication tools - PODD books, assistive technology devices, PECS, Auslan, and Key Word Sign</i></p>	<p>(Max up to \$125)</p> <p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
<p><i>Specialist printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i></p>	<p>(\$ 10)</p> <p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
<p><i>Specialist Whole school events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics carnival - entry and transport • Swimming carnival – entry and transport • Christmas Celebration 	<p>(\$30)</p> <p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<p><i>Student wellbeing programs (ZEN, Peaceful Kids) - \$20</i></p>	<p>(\$170)</p>
<p><i>School grounds maintenance and improvements e.g., playground upgrade, All Abilities Track - \$150</i></p>	<p>For 2022 there will be No charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</p>
Total Amount	\$ NIL



Educational items for students to own

Maryborough Education Centre is continuing to use Education Plus for the provision of Booklist items which the school recommends you purchase for your child to individually own and use.

To complete online go to www.edplus.com.au - your student's code is sent via text message to you. If you have not received this, please contact the school – 03 5461 7900.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Maryborough Education Centre 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.**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
<i>School MECazine</i>	\$10
<i>Optional Specialist school camps</i>	TBA
<i>Other optional Specialist excursions to be scheduled</i>	TBA
<i>School Photographs</i>	Parent Choice
<i>Visiting Authors, performers, guest speakers</i>	TBA
<i>Parents and Friends Fundraisers e.g. MECathon, Fathers & Friends stall and Mother's & Friends stalls</i>	Parent Choice
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	

Financial Support for Families

Maryborough Education Centre understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (concession card holders eligible)
- State Schools Relief (concession card holders eligible)
- Instalment payment options available by arrangement

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

Tracey Smith – Business Manager – 03 5461 7900 - maryborough.ec@education.vic.gov.au



Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$ NIL
Other Contributions	\$ NIL
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$ User pays / optional

Payment methods

• BPay	• Eftpos	• QKR
• XUNO	• Cash	

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Please refer to MEC's Refund Policy on our website for full details.

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.