



6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: 2025 Specialist Voluntary Financial Contributions**

Maryborough Education Centre (MEC) is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of MEC's Specialist voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

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 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, and
- access to the latest software and technology to allow students to maximise use of their Bring Your Own Device within the school.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see the one-page overview attached or go to [Parent Payment Policy](#).

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 &amp; equipment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue &amp; pencils</li> <li>• Technology – Specialist TV program resources, textiles, construction materials, gardening tools and plants</li> <li>• Science – microscopes, materials used to complete experiments.</li> <li>• Food Tech – food ingredients such as flour, butter, fruit, and vegetables</li> <li>• Mathematics – MAS numeracy blocks, Lego, jigsaw puzzles, measuring tools, scales etc.</li> <li>• Sports – sporting and physical activity equipment, U-scooters, mobility tricycles and mobility bicycles</li> <li>• Sensory items – wobble stools, sensory boards, sensory lighting, data projector wheels and fine motor tools</li> </ul>	<p>(Up to \$380)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>
<p><i>Specialist online Subscriptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Eggs</li> <li>• Mathseeds</li> </ul>	<p>(Up to \$45)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>
<p><i>Specialist ICT Devices – iPads, computers and storage trolleys, provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</i></p>	<p>(\$125)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>
<p><i>Specialist communication tools –PODD books, assistive technology devices, PECS, Auslan, and Communication Applications such as ProloQuo2Go.</i></p>	<p>(\$160)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>
<p><i>Swimming and water safety program</i></p>	<p>(\$25)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – DE / MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>
<p><i>Specialist printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i></p>	<p>(\$15)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>
<p><i>Specialist Whole school events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming carnival – entry and transport</li> <li>• Christmas Celebration – food, activities, entertainment</li> <li>• School performances – costumes, props</li> <li>• Colour Run participation</li> </ul>	<p>(Up to \$80)</p> <p><b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b></p>



Other Contributions –for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>Student wellbeing programs (ZEN, Essential Living Skills program)</i>	(Up to \$230)
<i>First aid and hygiene equipment</i>	<b>For 2025 there will be no charge to families – MEC will be fully subsidising these costs</b>
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements e.g., playground upgrade, fitness stations</i>	
<b>Total Amount</b>	

**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](http://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 – provided on a user-pays basis.**

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 to deliver the Curriculum.

**These are provided on a user-pays basis.**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
<i>School MECazine</i>	\$5
<i>Optional Specialist school camps</i>	TBA
<i>Other optional Specialist excursions to be scheduled</i>	TBA
<i>Visiting Authors, performers, guest speakers</i>	TBA
<i>Fundraisers e.g., MECathon, Fathers &amp; Friends stall and Mother's &amp; Friends stall</i>	Parent Choice
<b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>\$ User pays/optional</b>

**Total**

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



### Payment methods

• BPay	• Eftpos	• QKR
• Compass	• Cash	• Direct Deposit

### 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.

### Financial Support for Families

MEC understands some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support, including:

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

### School Saving Bonus

The Department of Education is providing a one-off \$400 payment for children attending a Victorian government school in 2025, to help families cover the costs of children's school uniforms, textbooks, excursions and activities.

For more information visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/receiving-school-saving-bonus>

If you would like to discuss the available supports further, please contact:

**Anna Bartlett – Finance Manager on 03 5461 7900 - [maryborough.ec@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:maryborough.ec@education.vic.gov.au)**

# 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

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.