



## PARENT PAYMENTS

Dear Parent

Antonio Park Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our parent payment arrangements for 2021.

Please find the fee schedule for 2021 attached.

Antonio Park Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

The community of Antonio Park Primary School is proud of the school's excellent facilities and the quality comprehensive curriculum that it offers within the constraints of a tightly apportioned budget. Each year, School Council has the responsibility of determining the following year's budget, taking into account programs to be offered and the goals and key improvement areas set out in the School Strategic Plan.

Funding comes from three sources:

1. DE&T (Department of Education and Training) Student Resource Package
2. Parent Contributions, through the payment of the Essential Items and voluntary financial contributions
3. Local fundraising, including a valued contribution from our school fete

The first source, the *Student Resource Package*, meets salaries and most operational costs of running the school. However, **it does not** cover all the curriculum materials for learning programs that we offer the students at Antonio Park Primary School. Neither will it meet the carefully planned maintenance of and improvements to buildings and grounds.

Accordingly, the school relies heavily upon the second source: the *Essential Items* fee and the *voluntary financial contributions*. These are set to meet the difference between funds from the Student Resource Package and our required budgeted expenditure each year.

The payment of school fees is even more vitally important to us now that the third source of funding in the list above – *local fundraising* – was completely removed from our income for the entirety of 2020, and looks to be threatened in 2021 as well.

Therefore, to continue to deliver a high quality education to our students, we rely heavily on our parent payments. School Council has set the following fees for the 2021 school year.

<p><b>STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS</b> These items are essential to our core teaching and learning program. The total cost comprises of:</p>	
<p><b><u>Essential Items (required to be paid)</u></b></p> <p>These items are essential to support your child’s learning at school as part of the standard curriculum. They include your child’s book pack and other essential materials and subscriptions that your child will use throughout the year as essential parts of their learning program. Please see table below for a break-down of these costs.</p>	\$150
<p><b><u>Curriculum Support (voluntary contribution)</u></b></p> <p><i>This voluntary amount was previously included in the Student Requisites essential education items; however, 2020 updated Department of Education guidelines state that it must be asked for as a voluntary contribution. These funds are extremely important to allow the School to continue to deliver the high quality curriculum programs that our community values.</i></p> <p>These funds support the purchase of additional resources for our classroom programs throughout the year that are not funded by DET. This includes things like sporting equipment, musical instruments, digital devices, classroom furniture and school-supplied tools and manipulatives used in classroom subjects like Mathematics and Science.</p>	\$100
<p><b>TOTAL: \$250</b></p>	
<p><b>VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b></p> <p>At Antonio Park, we are firmly committed to continue to make a great school even better. We welcome your voluntary contributions to support us to provide resources for your children and a first-rate learning environment we can all be proud of.</p>	
<p><b><u>First Aid Fund</u></b></p> <p>Antonio Park employs and pays for the training of a dedicated First Aid Officer to ensure the provision of onsite, quality care for your children. We also pay for all of our staff to be trained to a Level 2 certification of First Aid, rather than the mandatory Level 1 requirement. This is the choice of our school, and is not directly funded by the Department of Education. We are asking families to make a voluntary contribution to support the continuation of these initiatives.</p>	\$40 per student
<p><b><u>Library Fund (tax deductible)</u></b></p> <p>The Library Fund enables our school to replenish and boost our supplies of fiction and non-fiction books and e-resources to ensure students of all reading levels have a rich selection to choose from. It will also be used for a needed refresh of our take-home readers for our junior school, and our small group literacy reading texts across P-6. We are proud of our library and literacy programs and want to ensure we maintain current and quality reading options for our students in order to foster a life-long love of reading in all of them.</p>	\$60 per student

Physical books are expensive, and we need the support of our parents in this way to help maintain the quality and currency of stock we have.

The Library Fund is registered with the Australian Tax Office and contributions are claimable on your taxation return under charitable donations. The above fee is a suggested amount and any extra donations to this fund are also fully tax deductible.

**School Building Fund (tax deductible)**

\$80 per family

School Building Funds are directed to paying for school building works, maintenance and improvements to facilities around the school. It also goes towards funding a part time staff member for building maintenance. We take pride in our school environment and contributions to this fund will enable us to keep the buildings and grounds looking fantastic. As your children spend a great deal of their time here, we think it is very important for them to be in a pleasant and well maintained environment.

The School Building Fund is registered with the Australian Tax Office and contributions are claimable on your taxation return under charitable donations. The above fee is a suggested amount and any extra donations to this fund are also fully tax deductible.

**Financial Support for Families**

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- individual payment plans

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

Donna Willcox-Litovkin  
Ph: 03 9874 4371  
Email: antonio.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au

**Payment Methods**

The preferred method of payment is through the Compass Parent Portal however payment can also be made by credit card at the office.

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

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lambert  
Principal

Rebecca Linnett  
School Council President

## BREAK DOWN OF ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS

Below is a break-down of the cost of items which are essential for your child to learn the standard curriculum, and make up our compulsory 'Essential Items' fee.

Essential Student Learning Items	Amount
Book pack items	\$73
Bulk classroom supplies	\$5
Visual Art resources	\$20
Performing Arts resources	\$5
Indonesian resources	\$5
Science and Inquiry learning resources	\$10
Digital Subscriptions (incl. Essential Assessment, Sunshine online, ACER testing)	\$22
Sustainability program (animals, veggie garden, nature's classroom)	\$10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150</b>

# PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

## ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

The following is a summary of the main principles of the Parent Payments Policy:



### FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.



### PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

- Schools do not ask parents to pay for school operating costs (e.g. utility costs) or general and unspecified charges.
- Schools request payments from parents under three categories:

#### Essential Student Learning Items

- Items and activities which the school deems essential for student learning.
- Parents may choose to purchase essential items through the school or provide their own.

#### Optional Items

- Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.
- These are provided to students on a user-pays basis.

#### Voluntary Contributions

- Voluntary contributions support the school to continue to be the best local school for all students and can be for general or specific purpose.
- Students will not be disadvantaged in any way if parents do not make a contribution.



### 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 obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and upload their arrangements on their school's public website for transparency.