

WESTERN AUTISTIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Western Autistic School is having another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Western Autistic School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

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 can offer the best possible education and support for our students. The school makes every effort to keep the cost of items purchased and activities at a minimum and sources these products from the most economical supplier possible.

Western Autistic School is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) with the result that any donations made by you will be tax deductible. To be tax deductible, your donation needs to be made voluntarily. We have suggested an amount to be contributed under "Curriculum Contributions" and "Other Contributions" below, but please feel free to contribute an alternative amount. Amounts paid under "Extra-Curricular Items and Activities" are not donations and are not tax deductible.

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

Financial Support for Families

Western Autistic School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- *State Schools Relief (SSR)*

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

Sarah Testa - Business Manager

Ph: 03 9097 2000 | Email: sarah.testa@education.vic.gov.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Adele Field – Principal

Curriculum Contributions – items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><i>Curriculum Contributions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom – paper, craft items, glue, foam, playdoh, folders, display books • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, etc • Science/Technology – experiments, books, gardening items, etc • Cooking – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc. • Mathematics – blocks, counters, puzzles • Sports – equipment and resources 	\$90
<i>ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</i>	\$30
<i>Communication tools – PODD books, assistive technology devices, language displays</i>	\$20
<i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$10
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$150

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

Western Autistic School offers a range of optional 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 and information on these events will be provided to parents throughout the school year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
<i>Optional Grade 3 Camp</i>	\$75
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$75

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Payment methods

- EFTPOS
- CompassPay
- Bpay (please call the school for your child's individual reference number)
- Cheque/Cash (please bring correct cash amount)

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

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.