FITZROY NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Family Contributions 2026

As we look ahead to another exciting year focused on nurturing independent learners and supporting their intellectual, social, and moral growth, we would like to update you regarding family contributions for the 2026 school year.

While the school provides free instruction aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, please be assured that all financial contributions from families are entirely voluntary. However, your ongoing support plays a crucial role in our school's ability to deliver high-quality educational programs and enhance your child's learning experience.

The majority of our funding comes from the State Government, but these funds do not cover all the resources and opportunities we provide. Family contributions help to bridge this gap, enabling us to offer a broader range of curriculum programs, services, and resources for your child.

Locally-raised funds through voluntary family contributions are therefore essential to the continued success of our school.

In addition to state funding, these contributions support a wide variety of key activities and resources, including but not limited to:

- Special curriculum experiences such as STEM, the Victorian High Ability Program (VHAP), Emerging Leaders Program, Coding and Gardening Clubs
- Additional specialist programs like the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden, Auslan, Interschool Sport (Division and Regional levels), and RockBand
- Access to ICT devices and educational software
- Essential equipment and materials required for delivering a high-quality education
- Resources for Art, Science, Maths, English, and PE programs
- Maintenance and upgrades of school facilities, including projects like the recent returfing of The Block grass and the development of our new Adventure Playground
- New books and resources for the Library and classrooms, such as a fresh collection of decodable take-home readers

For 2026, we kindly request a Curriculum Contribution of $250.00 per child, which supports these valuable items and activities that directly benefit students' learning.

Families are also invited to consider additional voluntary contributions, including:

- Other Contributions: funding for non-curriculum expenses such as First Aid equipment, upkeep of specialised facilities, the Student Support Fund, and school improvements
- Tax-Deductible Donations: contributions to our Buildings and Library funds that are tax-deductible
- Extra-Curricular Activities: user-pay fees for additional extracurricular programs and activities

Further details and a breakdown of suggested contributions, along with information on the Department's Parent Payment Policy, are provided in the following pages.

We strive to keep financial contributions reasonable and manageable for all families. We understand that some families may experience financial challenges, and to support you, we offer a range of assistance options and flexible payment arrangements. For a confidential conversation, please contact our Business Manager, Nicole Cooper, on 9481 5860.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support, whether through voluntary contributions, fundraising efforts, or volunteering your time. Your involvement makes a significant difference in enriching our school community and the programs we offer.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Tania Sorbello

School Council President

Lincoln Gray

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper ($xx) • Science/STEM – materials and equipment • Mathematics – numeracy equipment • English – book boxes, home readers • Physical education – equipment • Bulk classroom supplies	***$250***
Online digital subscriptions, such as: • Google Classroom, Essential Assessment, Reading Eggs, Maths Seeds etc	
ICT devices • Provision of devices and applications for shared classroom sets	
Printing and Photocopying of Learning Materials	
Total Curriculum Contributions	***$250***

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	**Amount**
Suggested values have been provided as a guide. Families are invited to contribute alternative amounts depending on their individual circumstances	
First Aid equipment Purchasing of First Aid and hygiene equipment and resources	$50
Specialist facilities Upkeep of specialised facilities - e.g. music facilities, art room, STEM, garden spaces, library, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden	$50
School maintenance and improvements Supplements any funding received from the Department for maintenance and improvements to the school grounds and facilities. E.g in 2025 painting the external Library stairs, new Best st Fence and restoration work to the canteen.	$100
Student Support Fund Providing support for FNPS families suffering financial hardship. E.g. helping to ensure students are able to attend excursions/incursions, school camps and other key experiences.	$100
Total Other Contributions	**$**

Tax deductible contributions – for Buildings and Library funds	Amount
Suggested contributions have been provided as a guide. Families are welcome to contribute an alternate amount depending on their individual circumstances.	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support significant renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure. For example, during 2024 donated funds were used to pay for the re-turfing of The Block. Suggested amounts: $50, $100, $250, $500	Family to specify
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource. For example, during 2024 donated funds were used to purchase new reading resources (Readers) and maths resources. Suggested amounts: $50, $100, $250, $500	Family to specify
Total Amount: Tax Deductible Contributions	**$**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	

Fitzroy North Primary School provides a variety of optional items and activities that enrich and expand the students' educational experience beyond the standard curriculum. These include incursions and excursions, swimming programs, interschool sports, and camps. Families are responsible for covering the costs of these activities on a user-pays basis.

Information about the costs of other extracurricular items and activities will be communicated throughout the year.

Financial Support for Families

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Payments in Instalment
- State Schools Relief provides support for eligible families for clothing and other needs.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact Nicole Cooper on 9481 5860 or, via email on nicole.cooper@education.vic.gov.au.

Payment Methods

The easiest way to pay for your Voluntary Contributions is via Compass. Payment of your Voluntary Contributions can be made from **Monday 19 January 2026.**

If you are unable to use Compass to make your payment or you wish to discuss installment arrangements, please contact the school office.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy, please see the overviews attached.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and are 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 to the school has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.