

VCASS PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2023

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching, learning and performing and would like to advise you of VCASS' voluntary financial contributions for 2023. 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.

The Department of Education and Training funding covers the delivery of only some of our standard curriculum. It does not cover the additional funding required to deliver our specialist programs.

You have chosen to attend our school via the audition process and we strongly believe that education is about much more than just curriculum. VCASS strives to support your child to grow, not just academically, but emotionally, culturally, socially and artistically.

From our vision:

"Students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School will be resilient, self-confident, creative, passionate and compassionate individuals, who will have developed beyond their expectations. They will be significant contributors to the artistic and cultural life of Australia, as well as at an international level."

We invite you to support VCASS by making the curriculum contribution as listed, so that we can continue to provide these opportunities for all students.

Short falls from Curriculum Contributions are funded from school resources which would otherwise be used for upgrades, guest speakers and refurbishments and many other experiences that make VCASS special.

We value your contributions in supporting our school's programs and resources.

In setting our 2023 fee structure, VCASS has made every effort to keep the cost of running our unique curriculum and specialist programs to a minimum and in most cases are well under inflation. Parent contributions result in improved outcomes, wellbeing and engagement.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and for entrusting the education of your child to us.

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

Yours sincerely,



Hilary Bland

Principal

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Louise Baker

School Council President



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Year 8 Student ID Card incorporates PTV Concession Card	\$20
Year 8 PAT Testing	\$25
Year 8 Locker Service/Mobile phone storage	\$10
Year 8 classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper ● Science – chemicals ● Maths, English Consumables 	\$185
Year 8 Wellbeing Curriculum – Personal Social Capabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshops ● Guest speakers and wellbeing support 	\$195
Year 8 Computer Service Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compass Access Students – Timetables, Lesson Plans, Student/Teacher communication ● Google education 	\$45 \$20
Year 8 printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$25
Year 8 whole school events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Premiers Reading Challenge 	\$30
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$555
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Suggested Amount
General contribution: to support enhanced classroom materials, IT support and enhanced bandwidth, student BBQs etc.	\$75
Contribution to the Parents & Friends Association	\$20
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$100
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.	\$100

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

VCASS 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.

Financial Support for Families

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

- Flexible payment arrangements are available through our compass system.
- Conveyance Allowance (if eligible) - Reimbursement of yearly travel ticket provided by the State Government will be allocated to family accounts. Parents can agree for this reimbursement to go toward Curriculum Contributions via Compass in 2023. Refunds will be made to any family upon request or when students leave VCASS. Families can choose to donate the balance to the school.
- CSEF - The CSEF provides payments to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions and is available to parents with a means-tested concession card. CSEF payments will be processed directly to schools from March 2023. If you have received CSEF in 2022 you do not need to reapply through the school.
- Western Chances Scholarship

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

Stacy Mitchell Ph: 03 8644 8644 | Email: smitchell@vcass.vic.edu.au

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$555
Other Contributions	\$295

Payment methods

Parents and guardians will be provided with notice of payment requests prior to the new school year.

Our preferred payment option is via your Compass log in. Payments through Compass are made in full, or via a Payment Plan where payments can be made in instalments at regular intervals. Payments may also be made at Reception or via credit card over the telephone.

Refunds

Refunds will be worked out on a case by case basis at the local school level.

- VCASS has the discretion to provide refunds to families and will do so where it is reasonable and fair (for example, if the school has not incurred a cost).
- If VCASS has incurred costs, the school will act reasonably and take into consideration the Financial Help for Families Policy and relevant arrangements, including support for families experiencing hardship. VCASS will consider refunding families for:
 - unavoidable event cancellations
 - if a family experiences a crisis or sudden serious illness
 - the student can no longer attend the event.
- If VCASS decides to provide a refund, then parents need to agree and advise the school where the refund should be paid. If that agreement cannot be reached, the refund will be paid into the account from which the money came. Where the payment was made in cash, VCASS will wait until the parents reach an agreement and advise the school.

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.