



VCASS PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021

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

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.”

Department funding covers the delivery of only some of the standard curriculum, it does not cover the additional funding required to deliver the rich educational experience we strive for.

To achieve our goals, VCASS must work in close partnership with parents and the broader school community to provide the best educational opportunities for our students both inside and outside the classroom. Through this partnership, parent contributions make a valuable difference and play an important role in enriching the school’s specialisation and teaching program. Parent contributions are highly valued and result in improved outcomes, wellbeing and engagement.

In setting our 2021 fee structure, we reflect and acknowledge the challenging year 2020 has been and will not pass on any increases the school has incurred, therefore our fees will remain unchanged for 2021. We do however, encourage you to make voluntary contributions to enable the school to maintain its high standards of classroom materials and infrastructure.

For further information please review the Department Parent Policy:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy>

Funding in the form of Parent Payments are categorized in the following ways:

- **Essential Education Items**

At VCASS, Essential Education Items are items and activities which School Council deems as essential for student learning, without which, students would be unable to access the school’s delivery of the standard curriculum. Parents are required to pay for these.

(Please note: these fees will be added to your account in 2021 and will not be available for payment on Compass. Eligible students conveyance allowance will be automatically used against this fee)

- **Optional Education Items**

At VCASS, items that come under this category are the specialist streams; Specialist Music, Specialist Dance, Visual Arts Extension Program, and Theatre Arts Extension Program. Parents are required to meet the total cost of these programs as per DET guidelines.

Participation in the Visual Arts and Theatre Arts Extension Programs are conditional on parents complying with VCASS payment terms. (As per payment arrangements below.)

- **Optional Enrichment Items.**
At VCASS, items that come under this category are currently Cecchetti Program and Royal Academy of Dance Program (RAD).

Participation in these enrichment programs are conditional on payment of the optional education items fees and must be paid prior to commencement.

- **Voluntary Financial Contributions**
Voluntary contributions allow VCASS to provide additional resources to further enrich the curriculum. Parents and guardians are invited to make a general contribution and their support is much appreciated. This includes donations to the PFA.

- **Library & Building Gift Funds**
Parents and guardians are offered the opportunity to receive a tax deduction for donations to our Library and Building Gift Funds. These donations enable excellent resourcing of the library and assist us to maintain our buildings in peak condition and extend our facilities to accommodate our enriched curriculum.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND METHODS

Parents and guardians will be provided with notice of payment requests prior to the new school year. Payments are requested prior to the commencement of the school year in which the programs are operating.

Payment for Visual Arts and Theatre Arts Extension Programs can be made in three instalments. The first instalment must be paid by Friday 11th December 2020, the second instalment before the end of Term One and the final instalment before the end of Term Two. Full participation in these extension programs is dependent on this timeline being met.

Our preferred payment option is via your COMPASS log in. Payments through COMPASS are made in full, or COMPASS allows you to commence 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.

If parents wish to discuss alternative payment arrangements, we invite you to contact the Business Manager, Stacy Mitchell, on 03 8644 8644 or smitchell@vcass.vic.edu.au for a confidential discussion.

FAMILY SUPPORT OPTIONS

The school recognises that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties. A range of support options are available

- Payment plans are available through our Compass System.
- Conveyance Allowance (if eligible) - Reimbursement of yearly travel ticket provided by the State Government will be allocated to school accounts to offset outstanding charges (prioritising essential learning items). 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 Victorian Government "Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund" is available to parents with Centrelink cards.
- Local community support such as Western Chances can be applied for.

