



## Year 7 Parent Payment Arrangements 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Vermont Secondary College is looking forward to a great year of learning and teaching and we would like to advise you of Vermont Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

State schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum, and we want to assure you that your contributions are voluntary.

Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our college can offer the best possible education and support for our students that far exceeds the standard curriculum offerings.

Whilst the State Government provide a substantial amount of the college's funding, it is not always sufficient to meet all the costs incurred to allow us to provide the broad curriculum offered. Our curriculum offers students significant subject choices, equipment, and full access to a wide range of materials. Therefore, we do rely on your contributions to maintain our other quality programs such as our Mentor program, additional well-being programs, sick bay staff and consumables. We want to thank you in advance, as without your assistance, our programs would need to be significantly altered or reduced.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Jacobs', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tony Jacobs  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Drost', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Frank Drost  
School Council President

Voluntary Curriculum Contributions – assist with the cost of items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><b>Year 7 Classroom work sheets and learning materials</b> \$70.00</p> <p><b>Year 7 Specialist Subjects - Classroom Consumables</b></p> <p><b>Materials Technology</b> - Perspex, beads, wire, pine, stain, varnish, tin, electronic circuit \$20.00</p> <p><b>Visual Arts</b> - clay, underglaze, glaze, firings, card, string, glue, shellac, ink, multimedia paper, paints, felt, stuffing, needles \$15.00</p> <p><b>Print Credit</b> allowance provided as credit on student ID card \$25.00</p> <p><b>School Carnivals (Athletics &amp; Swimming)</b> Transport costs to and from venue, entry cost \$30.00</p> <p><b>Student ID Card</b> used for attendance, Library borrowing, photocopying \$10.00</p> <p><b>Individual assessment by external provider</b> student assessment \$ 5.00</p>	\$175.00
Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<p><b>Vermont Secondary College Voluntary General Contribution</b></p> <p>Your voluntary contribution will allow us to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Vermont Secondary College including upgrade of classroom technology, whole school digital technology and equipment, faster Wi-Fi and internet, class sets, student and parent communication tool “Compass”, School Sports Victoria membership, student mentor program, our enhanced student wellbeing program, first aid equipment and consumables, student locker provision and maintenance as well as the maintenance and upkeep of our general resources and equipment, all of which improve the learning environment and our student outcomes.</p> <p><b>“This voluntary contribution is extremely valuable as it adds to the enhancement of services that the school can provide for your child.”</b></p>	\$ 320.00
Tax deductible Donations	Amount
<p><b>Building Fund Donation (tax-deductible)</b></p> <p>Your voluntary donation will directly support the provision of our exciting new Sports precinct. The college has received funds from the State budget; however, our vision for the precinct will go beyond the entitlement that we have received; the college with family assistance has already made a significant contribution to turn our vision into reality.</p> <p>Such investments for our community are all marvellous additions to our facilities for the benefit of all students and staff. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Your valued donation means that we will remain able to assist with future facilities and upgrades for our college community.</p> <p><b>Suggested amount \$200, but donations of any size are welcomed</b></p>	\$200.00
<p><b>Library Fund Donation (tax-deductible)</b></p> <p>Your voluntary donation will support book purchases and other technology equipment to continuously update this valuable resource.</p> <p><b>Suggested amount \$100, but donations of any size are welcomed</b></p>	\$100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Vermont Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.

**All extra-curricular items and activities are provided on a user-pays basis and will be invoiced individually via Compass events and include: -**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Year 7 Excursions
Year 7 Camp
Year 7 Interschool Sports program
Vermont Secondary College Instrumental Music Program

## Educational items for students to own: -

### Year 7 Booklist

These are items that the school recommends that you purchase from Campion for your child to individually own and use.

### Year 7 Laptop

All students are required to have a Lenovo Yoga Touch Notebook Series with stylus. Should you need to purchase one, visit the Learning with Technologies order portal on the college website under the Curriculum.

## Financial Support for Families

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

- Access to State Schools' Relief Committee support for clothing/uniforms
- The Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund, which provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports, and excursions.
- VSCCA Second-hand Uniform Shop
- VSCCA Second-hand Book Sale
- The Student Wellbeing Team

Parents experiencing hardship can contact the Business Manager on 8872 6317 to discuss their situation and how Vermont Secondary College can offer support.

## School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus will provide \$400 in one-off support for Victorian school-aged students in Term 4, 2024, for use on 2025 school costs.

Families can choose how they want to spend the School Saving Bonus. It can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions, and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

## Payment methods

Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Vermont Secondary College. Parents are strongly encouraged to contribute.

2025 School Contributions are available to pay via Compass and this is Vermont Secondary College's preferred method of payment. Payments can also be made by cash or credit card – please contact the General Office on 8872 6300

## Refunds (Extra Curricular Activities, Camps and Excursions) please refer to our refund policy.

The school must ensure that the provision of any activity for students does not incur a cost directly on the school and that the activity does not run at a loss. When students withdraw from an activity after payment has been made to the school a refund may be applicable.

- All refunds must be applied for in writing, other than when the school cancels an activity.
- Parents/Guardians must apply for a refund no later than 14 days after the activity was due to take place and include the reason the student did not attend including a medical certificate if applicable.
- A refund will be considered once the viability of the activity and any possible monetary loss to the college is ascertained.

# 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 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 does not 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.