Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of 2025, we are incredibly proud of what our students have achieved this year. St Kilda Primary School continues to be a place where children learn, grow, and thrive — and that's thanks to the unwavering support of our families. Whether you've volunteered your time, contributed financially, or simply offered encouragement along the way, your support has made a real difference.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. However, it is your generosity and involvement that allow us to create a richer, more inclusive, and engaging learning environment for every child.

In 2025, your contributions and fundraising efforts helped us to:

- Continue employing Nurse Kate full-time to support the health and wellbeing of our students, and Warren to maintain our buildings and grounds.
- Support families experiencing financial hardship, ensuring every child could participate in camps, excursions, and school programs — regardless of circumstance.
- Run our Prep–Year 6 STEAM program, nurturing creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking.
- Strengthen our Disability and Inclusion initiatives, supporting every child to feel valued and included.

Funds raised in previous years have also played an important role in assisting families in need and supporting essential building and improvement projects, helping us keep our school a safe and inspiring place to learn.

Recognising the current cost of living pressures on families, School Council has made the decision not to increase parent payment charges for 2026. We hope this provides some relief while still allowing us to sustain the valuable programs and support that make our school such a special place.

We are so grateful for the kindness, generosity, and community spirit our families continue to show. Together, we are ensuring that every child at St Kilda Primary School feels supported, connected, and proud to belong.

For more information about the Department's Parent Payments Policy, please see the attached overview.

With heartfelt thanks,

Sue Higgins – Principal
Caroline Thornton – School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Consumables, materials & equipment to support student learning: • Classroom – additional learning resources, stationery, art and craft materials • Science – hands-on experiment materials, equipment and consumables • Visual Art – paint, paper, pastels, clay, textiles and other creative supplies • LOTE – cultural and language learning resources and materials • Library – book borrowing program, new titles and shared reading resources • Music – classroom instruments, sheet music and performance materials • Physical Education – sports equipment, ribbons, balls and athletics resources	$90
Online subscriptions and platforms to complement and extend our curriculum: • e.g. Seesaw, Sunshine Online, Storybox, Compass, library management system	$90
ICT access & maintenance – provision and upkeep of shared classroom devices, peripherals and software licensing	$190
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	$10
Total Curriculum Contributions	**$380**

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	**Amount**
Nurse Kate & First Aid Fund: The health, safety and emotional wellbeing of our students are at the heart of everything we do. St Kilda Primary does not receive government funding for a Registered Nurse, wellbeing coordinator, or staff first aid training. Your contribution helps us continue to employ Nurse Kate, maintain a fully equipped First Aid Room, and provide essential supplies such as asthma kits, anaphylaxis and defibrillator equipment. These funds also ensure we can meet students' health needs at school, on excursions and at camp.	**$150**
Wellbeing & Inclusion Fund: This fund supports programs and initiatives that promote mental health, social connection and inclusion across our school. Your contribution provides resources for student wellbeing, peer support, and community-building activities, helping ensure every child feels safe, valued, and supported — no matter their background or circumstance.	**$100**
Groundskeeper & Facilities Fund: Our beautiful learning spaces and outdoor areas are an important part of what makes St Kilda Primary School special. Contributions to this fund support **Warren**, our dedicated Groundskeeper, and help maintain our buildings, gardens and play areas to the highest standards of safety and care. Your support helps create a clean, welcoming and sustainable environment for all students to learn and play.	**$120**
Total Other Contributions	**$370**

Tax deductible contributions	
Tax deductible Building fund: Your contribution to the Building Fund helps us create learning spaces that inspire and support every child. Donations directly fund renovations, upgrades, and essential maintenance, ensuring our school remains safe, modern, and welcoming for all. Every contribution — large or small — makes a lasting difference in maintaining the quality of our facilities for current and future students.	$100
Tax deductible Library fund: Our **Library Fund** supports the heart of our school's learning culture — a place where curiosity and imagination come alive. Your donation helps us expand our book collection, update digital resources, and enhance library spaces, giving every student access to engaging, high-quality materials that foster a lifelong love of reading and learning.	$50

Educational items for students to own

St Kilda Primary School recommends purchasing your child's book pack directly through Maxim for your child to individually own and use. Maxim offers high-quality materials at discounted prices, ensuring students have everything they need for successful learning in the classroom. Book packs can be conveniently purchased via Compass at the end of each school year.

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

Throughout the year, St Kilda Primary 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 may include excursions, camps, performances, and specialised programs. The cost of each activity will be communicated via Compass as details become available.

Total

Category		Totals
Curriculum Contributions		$380
Other Contributions	*(Non-tax deductible)*	$370
	(Tax-deductible)	$150
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities: will be advised throughout the year through Compass		$
Total		**$900**

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact Anabel Herr, Ph: 03 9534 3993, Email: anabel.herr@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

St Kilda Primary School uses Compass for all their payments.

Refunds

Requests for refunds are considered at the discretion of the school and assessed on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be issued where the school determines it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into account whether costs have already been incurred, and in line with the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, the 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 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	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.