

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Milgate Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the voluntary financial contributions for 2025. We are very proud of the enhanced educational experience that is provided here at Milgate which extends beyond the Victorian standard curriculum. Our aim is to develop and nurture well-rounded students by offering a wide range of learning opportunities.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, Milgate Primary School also relies on a variety of locally raised funds for additional revenue which goes towards providing the high level of educational resources and experiences that you have come to expect.

Within our school this support has allowed us to:

- o Participate in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program to foster the development of the whole child (social, physical, emotional, and cultural aspects in addition to academic excellence).
- o Enrich the student experience through enhanced Music, Art and PE/Sport programs
- o Supplement the Chinese Language (Mandarin) program by partnering with our Chinese sister school – Experimental Primary School of Beijing Normal University
- o Continuously enhance the learning program through investing in ongoing learning technology and digital resources.
- o Improve the academic excellence of our students through continual professional development of staff to apply the best research and practice in the classroom.
- o Introduce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as a new specialist subject in 2025. This initiative reflects our dedication to equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in an increasingly technological and scientific world.
- o Upgrade our Grounds this year including the installation of the Year 1 and 2 playground, update the Foundation Courtyard, install two new Gaga Pits and two new Table Tennis tables. Next year the school is anticipating installing playground equipment for Year 3 & 4, new fencing on the basketball courts, provide campfire seating on the hill at the southern end of the school and a few other minor projects.
- o Upgrade our buildings this year including a gas pressure upgrade to fix the heaters in the stadium, air conditioning and shelving in the Library, upgrade of the Stadium kitchen, upgrading the community room to create a dedicated STEM room. Next year the school is planning to upgrade the stadium roof skylights and continue with external building painting and maintenance works.
- o Continue to provide a variety of lunchtime clubs for students to engage in, leadership opportunities for students including wellbeing, house, cultural and school leaders programs

We would like to thank all families for their ongoing support as this ensures that we can continue to offer the best possible education and support to our students and their families.

Parent Contributions are organised in the following categories:

Curriculum Contributions: items and activities which are necessary to support a student's learning of the curriculum.

Educational Items for Students to Own are other items that the school may invite parents to supply or purchase such as notebooks, stationery, or a digital device.

Other Contributions: Parents are also invited to make a voluntary financial contribution for non-curriculum items and activities which will further enhance the high-quality educational experience at Milgate. The choices we make regarding the payment of contributions is an opportunity to directly impact the quality and range of educational options beyond the standard curriculum.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities: Items and activities that enhance and broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in delivering the Curriculum. Milgate PS offers a range of optional activities on a 'user pays' basis. Some examples of our extra-curricular activities are Camps, Excursions, Extra-curricular sporting activities, School Musical Art Show and Yearbook.

School Council has made a considerable effort to ensure that our suggested contributions are fair and that there are options in place to support families. Please contact the school office on 9842 7744 if you have any questions regarding the process or payments or if there is a need to discuss financial assistance.

We thank you again for your support of Milgate and its programs.

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

Yours sincerely,

*Kate Mancarella
Principal*

*Antony Pollock
School Council President*

Breakdown of requested Curriculum Contributions and Voluntary Other Contributions

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Year level classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art Program consumables</i> • <i>Music and Performing Arts resources</i> • <i>Mandarin program materials & equipment</i> • <i>Mathematics</i> • <i>English</i> • <i>STEM commencing 2025</i> • <i>Physical Education materials & equipment</i> • <i>Year level consumables provided throughout the year</i> • <i>Printing and copying of learning materials</i> • <i>Sustainability program consumables</i> • <i>Incursions/cultural visits/author visits</i> 	\$200.00
<i>Online Learning Platforms</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Cyber Safety Project</i> • <i>See Saw Learning Journal</i> • <i>JAMF iPad Management System</i> • <i>Teaching and Learning applications</i> • <i>Online Assessing applications</i> 	\$80.00
<i>ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</i>	\$60.00
Curriculum contribution suggested amount:	\$340.00
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>First aid nurse and equipment - suggested \$70</i>	\$70.00
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements – suggested \$70</i>	\$70.00
Other Contributions suggested amount:	140.00
Tax deductible contributions	Amount
<i>Building fund.</i> A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure – suggested \$70	\$70.00
<i>Library fund.</i> A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource – suggested \$70	\$70.00
Tax Deductible Contributions suggested amount:	\$140.00

Educational items for students to own

The 2025-year level book packs will be sold independently of the school and Milgate PS recommends you purchase from COS for your child to individually own and use.

All items have been carefully selected by the year level teachers and are available on our supplier's parent portal www.cos.net.au.

There is Free delivery to your home address for all orders purchased prior to 1 December, 2024.

Following this date, a delivery fee of \$13.95 per order will be charged. Multiple orders placed together will be charged \$9.95 per order. To ensure delivery prior to Term 1, 2025 please place your order before 5 January 2025 to ensure delivery before the start of school.

For access to the COS parent portal <https://parent.cos.net.au/>

Log in as: milgateprimary@cos.net.au

Password: BTSpaents-2025

Please Note: If you are ordering multiple packs and want them in separate boxes, please order and pay for each independently so you can ensure delivery as separate packs and not combined. This will require a delivery fee of \$9.95 per box.

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

Milgate PS 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 optional extra-curricular activities and items will be available throughout the year via the Compass portal.

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- partnering with charitable community organisations

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact the school office on 9842 7744.

Payment methods

- o Compass parent portal (preferred)
- o Cash or EFTPOS at school office (discouraged)

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and 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 has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information. The Milgate PS Refund policy is available on Compass.

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

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.