



Dear parent/guardian,

Ararat College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Ararat College's voluntary financial contributions for 2022.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Department of Education guidelines now mandate that schools are UNABLE to provide parents with a statement of fees. Included in this communication is specific details regarding contributions for 2022.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Ellie McDougall**  
**Principal**

**Adam Merrick**  
**School Council President**

<b>Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom consumables, materials &amp; equipment</li> <li>• Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</li> <li>• Whole school events (athletics and swimming carnivals)</li> <li>• ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets</li> <li>• Online subscriptions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Xuno</li> <li>○ Maths Space</li> <li>○ Wordflyers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$293
<b>Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student wellbeing programs</li> <li>• First aid equipment</li> <li>• School grounds maintenance and improvements</li> </ul>	\$50
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$</b>

### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Ararat College 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.

<b>Extra-Curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purchase (Please tick)</b>
School Magazine	\$15	
Instrumental Music Lessons	\$110	
Optional Year 7 Camp - Roses Gap	\$420	
Optional Year 8 Camp - Queensland Estimate only	\$1100	
Optional Year 9 Camp - Queensland Estimate only	\$1100	
Optional Year 10 Camp - Mt Buller or Queensland TBC Estimate only	\$1100	
Optional Year 12 Retreat - Halls Gap	\$350	
<b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b>		<b>\$</b>

### Financial Support for Families

Ararat College 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 provides financial support for eligible families to purchase clothing/uniforms at a reduced rate

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




Coralie Whitworth Business Manager

Ph: 0353 524177 | Email: [coralie.whitworth@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:coralie.whitworth@education.vic.gov.au)

### Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$
Other Contributions	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$

### Payment methods

	<b>In Person At the College Office</b>	Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS
	<b>Centrepay</b>	Ararat College is registered to receive Centrepay payments. An automatic deduction from your Centrelink benefit can be established at any time.
	<b>BPay</b>	Existing families - Please use your current BPay reference. New families - The college office can provide you with a BPay reference if required.
<b>DIRECT CREDIT</b>	<b>Direct Credit</b>	Please contact the college office on 53 524177 and we will provide you with our bank account details and your reference number.

### 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

# 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.