

2nd November, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Goonawarra Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Goonawarra Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to enhance our outdoor nature play opportunities for our students and initiate our pet therapy program. For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Goonawarra Primary School endeavours to make our fees and charges as transparent as possible and make every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum. Fees are outlined in three categories – Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items and Voluntary Contributions.

Please find the fees and payments letter and fee schedule for 2024 attached for your action.



**Dolores Giordimaina**  
**Principal**



**Stuart Hetherington**  
**School Council President**

## 2024 - FEES & PAYMENTS

The new year of 2024 will see the Goonawarra Primary School community continue to grow and evolve, offering rich and diverse learning opportunities for our students. If you are a new family joining us next year, we welcome you to our school community and hope that you and your child(ren) enjoy your time at GPS over the coming years. If you are an existing family returning next year, we look forward to seeing you refreshed in the New Year.

This letter outlines GPS's fees and payment arrangements for 2024. School Council, made up of teaching staff and parents, is very proud of our school and the achievements of our students. It is within the context of support for the great work of our teachers, and the continued success of our students, that the annual review of payments is undertaken. Affordability is a prime consideration, as are the educational outcomes available to our children. Victorian legislation and Education Department policy requires that the standard curriculum is delivered free to all students within government schools, and GPS supports this fundamental principle of access to free education. The school fees set and endorsed by the School Council are for programs and materials beyond standard curriculum delivery – including health and wellbeing, online resources and medical care to enhance the educational opportunities/experiences available to our students and support the work that makes GPS great.

We appreciate your contribution in enabling us to deliver a high-quality, multi-faceted program that nurtures the development of the whole child and provides a rich and engaging learning foundation for all students.

### **PART A: CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS**

These contribution requests include the cost of student yearly subscriptions to access Mathletics (Numeracy Platform P-6), Art - paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, Maths Online, Bug Club, Student Wellbeing Journals, printing and photocopying of learning materials. These contributions support the school in continuing to run effective, enriching and engaging programs for our students. We rely on parent contributions to support our programs.

### **PART B & C: Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

Goonawarra Primary school 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. We will provide an events calendar for all year levels which will provide information around dates, locations and prices of the excursions and incursions booked, in term one this is outside the parent payment arrangements.

### **PART D : Tax Deductible or Contributions (non tax deductible)**

Goonawarra primary school continues to welcome your voluntary contributions to support our school. You can make a general voluntary contribution that goes towards all of our school's important priorities for 2024 as well as providing additional activities and services for all students as stated below.

Voluntary financial contributions by parents are an increasingly important source of funding for the school and assist in ensuring our facilities and programs operate at a high standard. As for all Victorian State Schools, the funding provided for the delivery of the standard curriculum varies from school to school and is adjusted annually according to the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA). This means that schools in areas with children with higher needs receive increased funding while schools in areas with higher socio-economic and educational profiles receive less funding.

We hope that many more families will help to grow this important source of school funding next year. For 2024, if it is within your family's means, please consider contributing. Voluntary contributions alleviate pressure on the main funding sources, enabling the school's core budget to remain focused on delivering enriched educational outcomes for all of our children. If we all give a little, together, our impact can be great.

Voluntary financial contributions can be made as a non-deductible general voluntary contribution, or as a tax-deductible contribution to the School's Library or Building Funds. School Council would like to put contributions to the Building Fund on hold and has set the following expenditure goals for voluntary contributions:

### **2024 Library Fund Goal**

Tax-deductible contributions made to the Library Fund are used for the acquisitions and operations of the school library, ensuring that it remains a well-resourced and vital educational hub for our students and families. A key goal for 2024 is to refresh and expand the range of take-home reader books for students across all year levels to inspire life-long readers.

### **2024 Outdoor Play equipment**

The primary goal for 2024 is for funds to be directed towards the staged development of the school's indigenous passive area. This is an ambitious project which will see the school's wonderful grounds enhanced with creative, engaging, and nature-focused play. This work is expensive and not directly funded by the department, so will be financed through fundraising efforts, donations and any grants we are able to obtain. Generous donations will broaden the scope of works able to be undertaken in 2024, enabling better play and outdoor learning spaces sooner this is an exciting development for the children and the whole school community.

### **SUPPORT OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES**

The School Council recognises everyone's family circumstances are different, and as such our school is committed to supporting parents and guardians who are experiencing either short term or long term hardship and may be unable to make the requested payments on time. If these circumstances apply to your family, School Council encourages you to have a confidential discussion with Dolores Giordimaina or Assistant Principal - Carla Cropley. The school can offer alternate payment options to assist your family and provide details about financial and other types of support that may be available. More information, including the school's parent payment policy and details about cost support for families is available on the department's website.

### **Payment Days and collection of book packs**

**This will be held on Monday, 11th December and Wednesday, 13th December, 2023 as well as Monday, 29th January, 2024.** The school will be open on these days from 8:30am till 4pm. Families will need to complete the form and make payments for fees on these days. We thank you for your ongoing support.

**Please note that we will not be accepting payments before Monday, 11th December and won't be accepting payments after Wednesday, 13th December. We will then be accepting payments on Monday, 29th January, 2024.**

### **Educational items for students to own**

A list of items that the school recommends you purchase from Maxim Office Group for your child to individually own and use is available on their website. The book list from Maxim will be essential for their age and learning development.

Families can purchase pens, pencils and other stationary tools from any stationary store if you choose not to purchase from Maxim. The recommended stationary list can be accessed when you log onto Maxim. If you have any questions please contact the school.

You will need to visit the following website to purchase your child's books for 2024:

<http://www.maxim.booklists.com.au>

On-line book pack orders **MUST** be completed by **Friday, 10th November**. Orders will be delivered to the school for collection on the above dates.

<b>STUDENTS NAME:</b>		<b>GRADE:</b>	
<b>Part A</b>			
<b>Curriculum Contributions</b> - items and activities that students use, or participate in to access the Curriculum			
Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper	\$20		✓
Mathletics	\$20		✓
Maths Online	\$20		✓
Bug Club	\$20		✓
Student Wellbeing Journal	\$17		✓
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$20		✓
<b>PART A TOTAL</b>		<b>\$117</b>	

<b>Part B</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Purchase (please tick)</b>
<b>Extra-Curricular Items and Activities</b>			
Optional Year 2 one night school camp (approx Price)	\$287	\$50	
Optional Year 3 / 4 school camp (approx price)	\$370	\$50	
Optional Year 5 / 6 school camp (approx price)	\$490	\$50	
<b>PART B TOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>	

<b>Part C</b>			
<b>Other Contributions</b> - for non-curriculum items and activities			
First aid equipment	\$25		✓
<b>PART C TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25</b>	

<b>Part D</b>			
<b>Tax deductible or contributions</b>			
<b>Library Fund.</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$50		
<b>Outdoor Play Equipment Fund</b>	\$50		
<b>PART D TOTAL</b>			

<b>PART A + PART B + PART C + PART D TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>
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## Financial Support for Families

Goonawarra Primary school understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Family Payment plan

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

Ph: 03 03 9744 7137 Email: [dolores.giordimaina@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:dolores.giordimaina@education.vic.gov.au)

## Curriculum Contributions PART A, B & C Payment Option

**Term Fees** will require families to contact the school and make Eftpos/credit card payments.

The below are the dates when instalments must be made.

Term One instalment must be paid by (Friday 9th February 2024)	\$35.50 per child
Term Two instalment must be paid by (Friday 26th April 2024)	\$35.50 per child
Term Three instalment must be paid by (Friday 19th July 2024)	\$35.50 per child
Term Four instalment must be paid by (Friday 18th October 2024)	\$35.50 per child

## 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.

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for supporting Goonawarra PS with the online portal. We have partnered with Maxim Office Group Pty Ltd to ensure a seamless school start for 2024. Packs will be delivered to the school for collection.

If you have any questions, please call Maxim on 1800 25 35 35.

Please note:

**Orders must be placed by Friday, 10th November 2024 to ensure delivery is on time, ready for collection from the school.**

**(Any orders after this date will incur a late order processing fee of \$15 from Maxim)**

For collection date information, please contact the school office on 03 9744 7137

To order your Backpack:

1. Please follow this link: <http://www.maxim.booklists.com.au>

2. Your access code is: **GOONAWARRA**

*\*Please note this is capital sensitive. Please enter code as displayed in screen.*

3. Select the **year level required for order for 2024**.

4. Please ensure that the students' name, your name and contact details are given and correct

5. Select 'Place order'

6. If purchasing more than one booklist, please select 'Add another booklist' and follow the same procedure from step 3

7. Select 'Proceed to payment options'

8. Your total payment amount required will display on screen

9. Select 'Pay Now'

10. Please choose your check-out option – Credit/ Direct Debit available. Ensure payment details are correctly entered

11. You will receive a payment receipt and an order confirmation to the email address you provided

12. Your child's pack/s will be delivered to the school for collection

Thank you, Maxim Office Group Pty Ltd