



EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE

425 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald 3782

Phone: 03 5968 5388

Email: emerald.sc@education.vic.gov.au

November 20th 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Emerald Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Emerald Secondary College's voluntary **Year 7** student financial contributions for 2025.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and all parent/guardian contributions are voluntary.

Nevertheless, the ongoing financial support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

Within our school this support allows us to:

- *Invest in subject-specific materials for Food Technology programs, Visual Arts, Vis Comm Design, Woodwork and Outdoor Education*
- *Run additional programs such as school productions, music concerts, art shows, sporting events and competitions*
- *Enhanced digital learning opportunities*
- *Provide a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences*
- *Maintain the refurbishment of school grounds*

Please find below Emerald Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions schedule for 2025, which includes an overview of what your contributions will provide.

Department of Education guidelines now mandate that schools are UNABLE to provide parents with a statement of fees. Parents are asked to please review the recommended voluntary financial contributions schedule for an indication of contributions for your child/ren.

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

Yours sincerely,

James Barut
College Principal

Nadia Beardshaw
School Council President



CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum, including:

- Everyday items that your child will use in the classroom to learn the essential curriculum such as art supplies, science experiment equipment, cooking ingredients, technology materials
- Attend District and Regional School Sports events

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Emerald Secondary 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

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

- Non-Curriculum items and activities to support the daily operation and objectives of Emerald Secondary College.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Building fund (to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure)

EDUCATIONAL ITEMS FOR STUDENTS TO OWN

Attached is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase from Champion Books for your child to individually own and use

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools' Relief (SSR) is continuing to support students who are recipients of the CSEF by providing a subsidised Uniform Pack to students starting Year 7 in 2024

Once the application is approved, students will have a choice of the following:

- 1 x Summer Dress OR Trousers/Pants OR Shorts
- 1 x Shirt
- 1 x Black Leather Shoes (Lace ups, T-bar or Skate)

**** Please note: PE items are not included as part of this package**

**** For more information regarding the uniform package please contact the General Office**

For a confidential discussion about accessing State Schools' Relief services, contact the College Wellbeing Coordinator on 5968 5388, or email emerald.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Emerald Secondary College.

COMPASS	Payments can be made via the Compass Portal using credit card and payment plans are available
BPAY	Payments can be made electronically via BPAY Please contact the office for your BPAY Reference number
CASH & EFTPOS	Payments can be made directly at the finance office or by credit card over the phone
PAYMENT INSTALMENT PLANS	Please contact the school office to arrange
CENTREPAY	Please contact the school office to arrange

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. For more information, please refer to the school's Refund Policy which is located on the school website.



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2025 YEAR 7 CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

STUDENT NAME:	
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CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS	Item Cost	\$
<i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment that students use or participate in</i>		
· Art – Paint, paper, clay, glazing colours	\$20.00	\$
· Textiles – Fabric, cotton, needles, pins, zippers	\$30.00	\$
· Woodwork - Wood, glue, nails, string, pain	\$80.00	\$
· Y7 Core (and SEAL) English	\$15.00	\$
· Y7 Core (and SEAL) Mathematics	\$15.00	\$
· Y7 Core Health Education	\$15.00	\$
· Y7 Core Physical Education	\$15.00	\$
· Y7 Core Science	\$15.00	\$
· Y7 Core Humanities	\$15.00	\$
	\$220.00	\$
WHOLE SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS		
School Sports Victoria membership	\$25.00	\$
Student ID Card	\$10.00	\$
	\$35.00	\$
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS - Suggested Contribution per student		
General School Levy <i>ESC relies on these funds to support school programs, library & faculty resources.</i>	\$150.00	\$
Wellbeing Program <i>To help supplement the Wellbeing Program and activities throughout the year.</i>	\$50.00	\$
Working Bee Fund <i>The College does not currently run Working Bees, and this contribution is used to enhance and maintain the school grounds</i>	\$30.00	\$
IT Support Levy <i>Student and whole school IT support and additional support for maintaining and repairing of laptops onsite.</i>	\$50.00	\$
Building Fund <i>Upgrades to buildings and facilities, including air-conditioning which is not funded by the Department of Education. ** All contributions to the Building Fund are Tax Deductable</i>	\$100.00	\$
	\$380.00	\$
OPTIONAL / EXTRA CURRICULAR ITEMS		
Combination Lock	\$20.00	\$
College Student Yearbook (Parawena)	\$25.00	\$
Instrumental Music Lessons (Optional)	\$400.00	\$
Calculator	\$27.00	\$
		\$
TOTAL PAYMENTS		
Curriculum Contributions:	\$ 220.00	
Whole School Contributions:	\$35.00	
Other Contributions:	\$380.00	
Optional / Extra Curricular Items:		
TOTAL:	\$635.00	\$



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.