Timboon P-12 School
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2027 Parent Contribution Arrangement

Dear parents, guardians and carers,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Timboon P-12 School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Timboon P12 School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact*: Nicola Stockings, 03 5598 3381, timboon.p12@education.vic.gov.au*

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 03 5598 3381. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Dodson
Timboon P-12 School Principal

Jeremy Doolan
School Council President

Timboon P-12 School 2027 Voluntary Contributions –Prep

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary Contributions	Suggested amount – parents may contribute more or less	Amount (parents to complete)
Voluntary Contributions *to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment*	$285	$

Tax deductible voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents may contribute more or less	Amount (parents to complete)
Voluntary - Library fund*: A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.*	$100	$
Voluntary - Building fund: *A tax-deductable contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure*	$100	$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Timboon P-12 School offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance and broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the curriculum, and include optional Academies, excursions, camps and sporting events.
Accessing these items does require payment, *but financial support is available (as stated in the cover letter) for those families experiencing financial hardship.*
Details of these items and activities will be provided via Compass to students and families throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular items and Activities	Amount
Reader bag	*$15.95*
Baringa Magazine/yearbook	*$37.00*
Other optional Prep excursions to be scheduled *	*$TBA on Compass*

***Please Note**: We anticipate there will be some low-cost camp & excursions planned during the year. Details of the excursions and the costs involved will be available on Compass when they arise.

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Timboon P12 School has an arrangement with the following supplier for the materials that you can buy – *OFFICEWORKS*

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please go to: recommended stationary list will be provided and published on our website when finalised.

Financial Help for Families

Timboon P-12 School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- **The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – families who qualify with a health care card may access CSEF funding towards camps, swimming, sports and excursions. Applications for this will be required each year and parents will be advised when applications are accepted. For each Primary and Secondary school student who qualifies, the school will receive $400 per students, which will be credited towards camps, swimming, sports and excursion. https://content.sdp.education.vic.gov.au/media/csef-financial-assistance-information-families-1357
- **State Schools Relief**– provides support to any Victorian student attending a government school (primary, secondary or specialist), on the advice of the school. Schools are able to submit an application directly, whenever they believe there is a need to support a student whose family/carers are facing difficulty in providing the appropriate uniform, footwear or educational items required for attending school.
- Welfare and support agencies that have established partnership arrangements with schools to provide further assistance to students and their families.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services please contact:

Nicola Stockings
Ph: 03 *5598 3381*
| Email: *timboon.p12@education.vic.gov.au* *(please attention it to Nicola)*

Digital Devices:

Timboon P-12 School uses digital devices to support learning.

If you do not buy a device, your child will be provided with access as they need for their learning, but it may not be one-to-one, to take home, or to keep.

For information about the digital devices our school recommends, including minimum device specifications, please contact Terry Hawkins – 03 5598 3381

Payment Methods Available

Options include:

- Online via CompassPay
- EFTPOS or Cash directly to the school office.
- BPay – this unique number appears on the family statements/invoices.
- Direct deposit – account details may be obtained from the school office.
- Payment plans are also welcome. We ask that you contact the school office to discuss the amount you would like to contribute, frequency and method of payment. This is to ensure parents have a payment plan in place that they are comfortable with and a plan that the school is aware of.

Refund Arrangements

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 the cost has been incurred, the Department of Education's Parent Contributions Policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.