

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: 2026 Year 8 Parent Payments

Patterson River Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary, with Extra-Curricular Items and Activities provided on a user-pays basis.

Patterson River receives very strong voluntary contributions from families which enables the College to provide students with a diverse range of experiences, facilities and resources. In 2021, we introduced the option for families to make voluntary contributions towards targeted areas that they could select from. This has resulted in a significant increase in contributions over and above normal subject fees which this year enabled us to purchase a range of new equipment and resources, including:

- German Levelled Reader Books
- Food Kitchen Garden Wicking Beds
- Maths Ti Inspire CX Navigator 3D System
- Music Percussion Equipment for Classroom Music
- BTF Shade Sails for Student Areas
- Science Electricity Kits
- Families in Need Stationary Starter Packs and Calculators
- Significant contributions to other areas that will roll over into 2026 targeted areas (see below)

We invite parents to consider making contributions towards our new initiatives, some of which are in tax-deductible areas.

There are three financial contribution categories to ensure the successful operation and resourcing of our Educational Programs:

Curriculum Contributions These are voluntary contributions which parents/carers pay to the school to provide essential support to the standard curriculum program. This payment ensures that the College can offer high quality programs and facilities for all students.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities These items and activities are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program and are designed to broaden the school experience for your child. This includes activities such as camps, along with certain subjects that your child may have chosen that are in addition to the standard curriculum at that year level. For example, all students complete Technology in Year 8 however, your child may have also selected an additional subject such as Retro Metal, which has an associated user-pays contribution.

Other Contributions These are voluntary contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives. Patterson River Secondary College continues to welcome your contributions to support our school. Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a voluntary contribution. All records of voluntary contributions are kept confidential, as well as your decision about whether to contribute or not.

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2026 Voluntary Contribution Target Areas:

Learning Area	Description	Target Amt	Current Amt
Library Trust Fund – Tax Deductible	ICT Upgrade	\$30,000	\$19,010.71
Library Trust Fund – Tax Deductible	Media Room - Podcast Equipment and Green Screen	\$8,000	New
Building Trust Fund – Tax Deductible	Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment	\$20,000	\$14,152.15
Building Trust Fund – Tax Deductible	Outdoor Equipment & Seating for Student Areas	\$10,000	\$3,434.06
Instrumental Music	Instrument Upgrade	\$15,000	\$10,089.53
Visual Arts	SLR Cameras and Tablets	\$9,600	New
Digital Technologies	Microbit Accessories	\$1,600	New
English	Books for Year Level Centre's	\$2,000	New
Design Technology	Sewing Machines	\$3,000	New
Performing Arts	Additional Stage Lights for M5	\$1,000	New
PE/Sport	Portable Soccer Goals, Swimming Rescue Gear	\$8,500	New

We have set nominal amounts of \$25.00 for each of these target areas in Compass. You can change the amounts for each of these (including to \$0.00) so that you can target your contribution to a particular learning area if you wish.

Educational Items for Students to Own

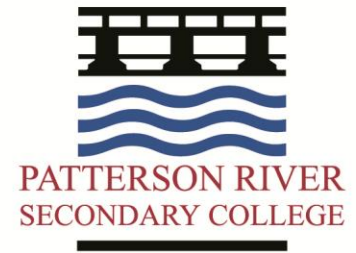
Booklist information is now available on Compass and on the College website. Patterson River Secondary College recommends you purchase from Campion Education however, you may choose any suppliers to source these items from for your child to individually own and use.

Payment Methods

Parent Contributions will be available for viewing and payment from 21 November 2025, through the Compass Payments Centre or via Events. The College also accepts Cash, EFTPOS and BPAY (contact the General Office for details). The following 5 payment options are available:

- 1 Payment in full - of an amount of your choosing
- 2 Monthly Compass instalments on **31 January, 28 February, 31 March, 30 April, 31 May**
- 3 Individualised Compass instalment dates tailored to suit
- 4 Personalised payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities via Direct Debit
- 5 Centrepay deductions (option for CSEF recipients)

For assistance with Compass Billing or any of the above payment methods, please see [Guide to Compass Billing](#) for step by step instructions, or contact the General Office.



Financial Support for Families

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

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment of \$400.00 per eligible student to assist with camps, sports, excursions
- State Schools Relief (SSR) for assistance with uniform, footwear, textbooks
- School Saving Bonus – rolled over from 2025
- Netbook Daily user program

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, contact:

Rachel Lindsey Ph: 03 8770 6700 | Email: rachel.lindsey@education.vic.gov.au

Carol Darma Ph: 03 8770 6700 | Email: carol.darma@education.vic.gov.au

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 Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

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

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Dew
College Principal

Nicole Eveston
School Council President

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2026 CONTRIBUTIONS – YEAR 8

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom Consumables - Food Studies, Art, Science, Design Technology, Music, Health - required by all students \$132.00 Student Workbooks – Health, Music, Food Studies, Learning for Now, German –workbooks provided to students \$28.00 Education Perfect – Online Learning Subscription - provided to all students \$29.00 Student Planner – Provided to all students \$20.00	\$209.00
Robot Challenge* - Robot design, building and programming to complete set challenges, equipment maintenance	\$33.00
Curriculum Excursions/Events/Activities (to be communicated via Compass as scheduled)	tba
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$

*Applicable students only – see Compass Billing

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Instrumental Music – Instrument Upgrade (Percussion) suggested contribution	\$25.00
Visual Arts – SLR Cameras and Tablets suggested contribution	\$25.00
Digital Technologies – Microbit Accessories suggested contribution	\$25.00
English – books for Year Level Centre's suggested contribution	\$25.00
Design Technology – Sewing Machines suggested contribution	\$25.00
Performing Arts – Additional Lighting for M5 suggested contribution	\$25.00
PE/Sport – Portable soccer goals, Swimming Rescue Gear suggested contribution	\$25.00
Other Contributions – Tax Deductible	Amount
Building Trust Fund – Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment parent to complete	\$
Building Trust Fund – Outdoor Equipment & Seating for Student Areas parent to complete	\$
Library Trust Fund – ICT Upgrade parent to complete	\$
Library Trust Fund – Media Room – Podcast and Green Screen Equipment parent to complete	\$
Total Other Contributions	\$
Total Other Contributions (Tax Deductible)	\$

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

Patterson River Secondary College 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. If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please ensure payment is made to the College.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities*	Amount
Student ID Card - PTV approved for concession fares on public transport (to be purchased at the General Office if required)	\$10.00
Student Printing (to be purchased at the General Office if required)	various
College Yearbook - A keepsake of the school year's highlights, achievements, memories, photos and activities	\$20.00
Animation - Materials to design animated cartoon and claymation characters	\$24.20
Ceramics - Clay and sculpture materials to design and create a piece of art of choice	\$45.00
Design Drop - Materials to create promotional music merchandise	\$27.00
Street Art - Materials for stencil making and paste-ups to design artistic street art	\$36.30
Make it with Timber - Materials to design and make a laminated serving platter and a wall mounted coat rack	\$33.00
Retro Metal - Materials to design and produce an enamelled copper bowl and a silver soldered ring	\$33.00
STEM Race Cars - Materials including 3D filament to design and produce a 3D printed car	\$33.00
Sew Cool - Fabric, decorations, sewing and embroidery materials to make a soft toy and a hand-woven basket	\$33.00
Food with Flair - Individual cooking ingredients for baking, pastries and preserves to celebrate events or to give as gifts	\$88.00
MasterChef - Cooking ingredients for individual and team cooking challenges	\$88.00
EXCEL Academic Program - Includes individual and group activities	\$66.00
EXCEL Sport Program - Specialised program involving elite sporting activities	\$363.00
Sports and Recreation – Transport/venue hire for tennis, golf and lawns bowls	\$55.00
Instrumental Music Program (with Instrument hire) - Includes sheet music, photocopying	\$200.00
Instrumental Music Program (own instrument/Voice/Percussion) - Sheet music, photocopying	\$40.00
Swimming Carnival - Transport (date to be confirmed)	\$12.00
Interschool Sports - Transport (\$12.00 per event)	tba
Roses Gap Camp - 'Step up' camp at year end to The Grampians National Park (approximate cost \$640.00)	tba
Optional Excursions/Events/Activities (to be communicated via Compass as scheduled)	tba
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$

*Applicable students only – See Compass Billing and Events

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$
Other Contributions (Non-tax deductible)	\$
(Tax-deductible)	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$
Total	\$

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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.