

19 May 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Timbarra P-9 College is looking forward to another wonderful year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Our School Council is proud of the excellent quality of our facilities and resources available for our students to enjoy and few schools match the numerous programs we offer to cater for students' needs and interests. However, these do not come without some extra costs involved. The Department funding we receive contributes to the basic curriculum, however limits our ability to provide students with the level of resources and facilities we expect to provide our students.

Each year, Timbarra P-9 College parents show positive support for the school through parent payments and fundraising efforts. This support has led to considerable improvements being carried out, especially in the areas of computer technology, numeracy and literacy, welfare assistance, and maintenance of classroom facilities and equipment through the provision of outstanding resources.

Our contribution schedule for 2023 is attached. Please make payment to the school by 2nd December 2022, so the school can prepare accordingly.

Financial Support for Families

Timbarra P-9 College makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents. We are always sensitive to, and sympathetic towards families in financial difficulty. For special circumstances, alternative payment procedures may be organised by prior arrangement, in strict confidence, with Sue Marandawela, Business Manager or Maura Conroy, Office Administration. Please contact our office on 9704 2744 if you wish to discuss payment options.

We understand that some families may experience financial difficulty and offer a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Centrepay
- Payment plans (by prior arrangement with our office staff)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225

per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payment is made directly to the school and are tied to the student. Application forms will be distributed in 2023.

Payment Methods

- Compass Pay – Preferred option

Other

- EFT
- BPAY
- Cash
- Centrepay (if eligible)
- Payment plans by prior arrangement with our office staff

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. Refunds can be requested by emailing the school at timbarra.p9@education.vic.gov.au

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

We appreciate your continued support and thank you for assisting us to provide the necessary resources to ensure your child continues to receive the best education possible.

Yours sincerely.

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Cassandra Marinopoulos
Acting Principal

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Ken Shields
School Council President