



COBRAM SECONDARY COLLEGE PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS - 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Cobram Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Cobram Secondary College's 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. 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 as this makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer to our students in 2023.

Within our school this support has allowed us to offer a wider range of subjects and enhance curriculum experience e.g. a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences; enhanced digital learning opportunities; the upgrade of facilities.

Department of Education and Training guidelines now mandate that schools are unable to provide parents with a statement of fees. With this in mind, parents are asked to please review the recommended voluntary financial contributions schedule below 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,

Kimberley Tempest
Principal

2023 Voluntary Financial Contributions – Years 7 – 12

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Annual amount per student
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment, including online subscriptions	\$250
Whole school events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Carnivals – entry and transport 	\$10
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Student Wellbeing and Support Programs Student / Parent Communication – Compass First Aid equipment School grounds maintenance and improvements School Sports Victoria - membership	\$50
TOTAL	\$310

Camps/Excursions	Amount
Year Level Focus Days	\$TBA
Subject Focused Excursions	\$TBA
Interschool Sport – range of opt-in activities and cost varies between \$5 - \$20	\$TBA
Year 12 Study Camp	\$TBA

Educational items for students to own

Educational items for each student can be ordered through Campion Education (Aust) Pty Ltd, www.campion.com.au or they can be purchased through another supplier of your choice. This booklist will be made available to all students once confirmed.

Extra-Curricular (OPTIONAL) Items and Activities

Cobram 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.

*Please note that students are generally required to provide their own music instrument to undertake music lessons. Please contact the school to discuss possible alternative arrangements if necessary. The cost of running a music program has continued to increase in recent times. Essential equipment and sheet music is expensive. Our policy of dividing the total cost of running the Instrumental Music program between all participating students means that the total annual cost for individuals is kept to a minimum that is far lower than the cost of private music lessons.

Payment methods

Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Cobram Secondary College. If you would like to make a regular small payment weekly, fortnightly or monthly to the College account.

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE IN THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

BPay – With biller code and reference numbers found on your statement / invoice. If you don't have these details please contact the Office for this information. – These codes are unique to your family account so can't be shared or transferred to other families.

In Person - Pay at the General Office between 8.30am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday by either cash, cheque or EFTPOS which accepts credit and debit cards, excluding American Express card.

Mail - Post a cheque to Cobram Secondary College, PO Box 387, Cobram 3644

Centrepay Scheme - Cobram Secondary College has been approved for the Centrepay Scheme. This means that parents/guardians on a Centrelink Payment can elect to request to deduct a chosen amount from your payment to pay off your child's education expenses owed to Cobram Secondary College.

To start Centrepay deductions – please call Centrelink or go online and use Centrelink's self-service to start Centrepay deductions at www.centrelink.gov.au. **Centrepay Reference No: 555107700L**

Fee Assistance

It is important for all families to know that alternative payment plan can be entered into and negotiated. Alternative payment options are available through the school and parents are encouraged to make an appointment with Carlie Ross-Soden – Business Manager at the College to discuss circumstances and available options.

Camps Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) – CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, are eligible to apply for CESEF. Annual amounts are approximately \$225 for a secondary student. The allowance is paid to the school and will be allocated to camp, sporting and excursion costs.

Application forms and assistance to apply are available at the school office. For more information about CSEF, please contact the school or visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the Principal and are made on a case-by-case basis through written application of Request for Payment Refund form available from the General Office. 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.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact Carlie Ross-Soden, Business Manager on 5871 1700.