



### 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).



### OFFERING CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS ON A USER-PAYS BASIS

- Schools can invite parents to purchase camps or excursions on a user-pays basis if:
  - it is not required for students to meet Curriculum outcomes in the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major or the Victorian Pathways Certificate, *or*
  - there is a free alternative activity provided to meet Curriculum outcomes.
- Camps or excursions provided on a user-pays basis can still be linked to curriculum-based learning but must be categorised in Extra-Curricular Items and Activities.
- Schools can ask parents to pay for the costs of a user-pays camp or excursion, including transport, food, entry, accommodation (for students and teachers), and supporting casual relief teachers (during its operation, either on or off the school premises).
- Schools cannot ask parents to pay for the salaries of Department teaching staff attending a camp or excursion provided on a user-pays basis.
- Schools can invoice families for camps and excursions provided on a user-pays basis.
- Schools should help families facing financial hardship to purchase these camps or excursions.



### 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.