

Dear parent/guardian,

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

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, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to organise and coordinate the best possible programs outside the traditional teaching and learning classroom structure. Our reading, numeracy and digital learning materials are extensive, and we are constantly adding new material for teachers to use to support personalised and quality learning.

Your financial contributions assist us with the purchasing of classroom consumables, cooking ingredients and other resources and with our specialist programs of Art, Music & PE with the purchasing of varied art resources, musical instruments & PE equipment. Our fantastic playgrounds & sports ovals have all been supported through our combined efforts.

Additional programs we can offer because of your contribution include Bike Ed, Hands on Learning, the Environmental Garden, Recycling & Goat Farm Programs and the Café.

***Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) with the result that any donations made by you will be tax deductible. To be tax deductible, your donation needs to be made voluntarily. We have suggested an amount to be contributed under "Curriculum Contributions" and "Other Contributions" below, but please feel free to contribute an alternative amount. Amounts paid under "Extra-Curricular Items and Activities" are not donations and are not tax deductible.***

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

Yours sincerely,



Paul Marshall  
Principal



Scott Morrison  
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<b>Classroom consumables, materials &amp; equipment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom Materials – pens, pencils, textas, glue, writing &amp; scrap books, highlighters, display books, scissors, rulers, pencil cases, Student diaries etc</li> <li>Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, clay etc. (\$xx)</li> <li>Classroom Cooking – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc.</li> <li>Mathematics – maths kits, calculators &amp; other resources</li> <li>English – book boxes, class sets, novels &amp; readers</li> <li>Sports Equipment</li> <li>Sensory items – fidget &amp; chew toys, shaving cream &amp; other consumable items</li> <li>Library – Books &amp; Subscriptions</li> </ul>	\$ 220.00
<b>Online Subscriptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story Box</li> <li>Essential Numeracy</li> </ul>	\$ 12.00
ICT Devices – provision of iPads, apps & devices from the shared classroom sets	\$ 25.00
Communication tools – aided language, schedules & positive behaviour displays	\$ 30.00
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$ 10.00
<b>Total tax-deductible Curriculum Contributions – Parents to complete</b>	<b>\$</b>

Other Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Sports Victoria affiliation	\$ 1.00
Community Access Local Incursions/Excursion	\$ 15.00
First aid and hygiene equipment	\$ 25.00

School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$ 25.00
<b>Total tax-deductible Other Contributions – Parents to complete</b>	<b>\$</b>

### **Educational items for students to own**

A list can be obtained from the office of the items that the school recommends if you would like to purchase for your child to individually use.

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

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School 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.

***The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.***

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (Optional)	Amount
Blue Reader Folder	\$ 16.00
School bag with logo	\$ 47.00
School Beanie	\$ 16.00
VCAL Graduation Top	\$ TBA
Other extra-curricular activities that will be advised throughout the year could be: Senior Gym Elective, Cooking & Science Electives, I-Can Network, Sporting Events & other camps & excursions.	
<b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>\$</b>

### **Financial Support for Families**

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Centrelink Centrepay Options

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact our Business Manager Tracey Paine on Ph: 03 5410 7700 or email: [tracey.paine@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:tracey.paine@education.vic.gov.au)

## Total

Category	Total recommended amount	Total payment
Total tax-deductible contributions	Base Amount \$ 220.00 Full Amount \$ 363.00	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (Optional)	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$

## Payment methods

EFTPOS

Cash/Cheque

### Direct Bank Deposit

Commonwealth Bank

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School

BSB: 063-511

ACC: 1000 0452

## 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.

# 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.