



RED HILL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL:
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Dear parents and carers,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Red Hill Consolidated School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Red Hill Consolidated School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Carmel Mitchell, Business Manager Phone 5989 2321 Email carmel.mitchell@education.vic.gov.au If you need an interpreter, please contact [03 9605 3053](tel:0396053053) and give our school's phone number 5989 2321. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see [How to use an interpreter to contact your school](#).

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at [Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parent-contributions-policy).

Yours sincerely

Angus Wettenhall
Principal

Steven Marshall
School Council President

RED HILL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	\$320	\$(parent to complete)

Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	\$210	\$(parent to complete)

Extra-curricular items and activities

Red Hill Consolidated School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events or fundraising activities (such as Disco)

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities		Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
Prep	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions		TBC	
Year 1	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions		TBC	
Year 2	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions		TBC	
Year 3	Camp Golden Valley Day Attendance Term 2	\$350 Approx	TBC	
	Sporting Activities throughout the year	\$ 30 Approx	TBC	
	(minimum of 2 can be additional depending on results progression of individual students)			
	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions			
Year 4	Camp Golden Valley Term 2 2027	\$400 Approx	TBC	
	Sporting Activities throughout year	\$ 30 Approx	TBC	
	(minimum of 2 can be additional depending on results progression of individual students)			
	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions		TBC	
Year 5	Camp Woorabinda Term 3 2027	\$300 Approx	TBC	
	Sporting Activities throughout year	\$ 60 Approx	TBC	
	(minimum of 4 can be additional depending on results progression of individual students)			
	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions		TBC	
Year 6	Camp Anglesea May 2027	\$500 Approx	TBC	
	Sporting Activities throughout year	\$ 60 Approx	TBC	
	(minimum of 4 can be additional depending on results progression of individual students)			
	Circus Term 4	\$190 Approx	TBC	
	Graduation Term 4	\$ 25 Approx	TBC	
	Up to 5 User pay excursions/incursions		TBC	
<i>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities</i>				
<i>Definite figure unable to be predicted this far out due to the fact that costings have not yet be finalised and may vary due to external rising costs beyond our control.</i>				

Learning materials for students to own

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Red Hill Consolidated School has an arrangement with the following supplier for the materials that you can buy: Maxim Office Group

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please go to: <http://www.maxim.booklists.com.au> OR refer to the recommended list for each year level that has been published on our website.

Financial help for families

Red Hill Consolidated School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Pre-loved uniforms available for gold coin donation please enquire at school office for availability

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:

Carmel Mitchell

Ph: 03 5989 2321 Email: carmel.mitchell@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

If you would like to pay for extra-curricular items and activities through instalments, please contact the school office to set up a payment plan.

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 of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information.]

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families



FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.



FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions

Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools

Tax deductible contributions

Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's [Parent Contributions policy](#).