

Parent Payment Arrangements - 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Altona College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the college's parent payment arrangements for 2021.

Please find information regarding 2021 fees for students **in Years Prep to Six**.

Altona College makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

Please note: Student booklist charges are completed separately at www.campion.com.au. (Use code 2B9Z as your code by Friday 18th December 2020).

Financial Support for Families

Altona College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- **the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund**

If you hold a means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent that is valid on the first day of Term 1 2021 you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards **expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child**. The annual CSEF amount per primary school student is \$125. An application form can be downloaded from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef; you will need to bring your concession card to the office for verification.

- **Parent Payment Plan**

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Debbie Dorgan – Business Manager

Ph.: 03 9250 8050 | Email: debra.dorgan@education.vic.gov.au

Payment Methods

Essential Items (school fees) will be invoiced to families via Compass. New families to the school will be provided with a compass login and password. You will have the option in compass to pay in full or via a payment plan. Payment in full or a payment plan instalment must be completed via compass before 28th January 2021.

Refunds

A refund will only be issued on a pro-rata basis if your family relocates and your child transfers to another school. Please be mindful that annual subscriptions and affiliations are paid to an online provider and cannot be refunded once purchased.

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

Yours sincerely,



Julie Krause

Principal



Nathan Guthridge

School Council Representative

Fee schedule – Prep to 6

Please find the itemised list of Essential Student Learning Items and Optional Items for your child. Altona College also welcomes your voluntary contributions for 2021.

Essential Student Learning Items

Below is a list of items and activities which are essential for your child to learn the standard curriculum.

Prep – 6 Essential Student Learning Items		Amount
General	Consumable Materials which students take possession of – Art and Craft Materials, Cooking Ingredients, A3 & A4 Coloured Cover Paper, Kinder Squares & Circles	\$60.50
	Student Reading log / Diary	\$11
Online Subscriptions	Mathletics: Students find engagement through purpose and reward. It provides learners with the chance to put their mathematics skills to use through activities and challenges that are relevant and attention-grabbing.	\$14
	Reading Eggs: Makes learning to read easy and fun by combining books with online reading games and activities. Teachers set tasks to complement classroom learning programs.	\$14
Total		\$99.50

Optional Items

Altona College offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the delivery of the standard curriculum. These items and activities are designed to broaden the school experience for your child. Information on any optional item will be forwarded at the relevant time.

Prep – 6 Optional Items
Camps, Excursions, Incursions Optional camps and excursions will be scheduled throughout 2021. The cost of these will be advised throughout the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3's will attend 'The Urban Camp' near the Melbourne Zoo on 17th-18th May, 2021. (Approx. cost: \$130-\$150) Year 4-6 attend 'PGL Adventure Camp Rumbug' Foster Nth on Nov 8th -10th, 2021. (Approx. cost: \$330-\$350)
School Photos Package to be made available by photographer in 2021
Swimming Program Prep-4: Two-week Intensive Swimming Program - approximately \$72 Year 6: Four-day Intensive Water Safety Program - approximately \$45.50
Instrumental Music Lessons Year 4 & above music instrument hire and ensemble – Music Lessons \$100 for 2021 & Hire of Instrument \$100 (if required, students may use their own instrument)

Voluntary Items

Altona College welcomes your voluntary contributions to support our school.

You can make a general voluntary contribution that goes towards all of our school's important priorities for 2021 as well as providing additional activities and services for all students, this can be paid for at the school directly. Alternatively, you can make a voluntary contribution via compass to any of the specific priorities outlined in the table below:

Voluntary Contributions		Suggested Voluntary Contribution per family
<i>Communication & Subject Donation:</i>	<p>This is a new voluntary contribution Altona College is requesting in 2021 to assist in financially supporting the College with communication and subject costs.</p> <p>This will assist the school in continuing to provide quality communication programs and extra materials for subjects that can no longer be charged as essential items on the family statement.</p>	Suggested amount \$50 per family
<i>Building Fund (Tax deductible)</i>	<p>In 2021 Altona College will develop a Building Trust Fund, which will enable parents to donate to improving the school buildings.</p> <p>Shelter between portable buildings – Funds will help the school build and provide a shelter to the area between the two new portable buildings in order to protect students and their lockers from the outside weather.</p> <p>Your support of this program would be appreciated and a tax deductible receipt will be issued asap.</p>	Suggested amount \$50 per family
<i>Voluntary Fund-</i>	<p>Supports the cost of new and replacement equipment, materials and services that support the growth of our school to a P-12.</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance - This money makes an important contribution to the development of our playground and identified projects to improve the facilities for your children. A considerable portion of this payment will ensure that the soft fall mulch under the playground equipment will be maintained at a safe level.</p>	Suggested amount \$50 per family

Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a voluntary contribution. All records of voluntary contributions are kept confidential as well as your decision about whether to make a contribution or not.

Understanding Parent Payment Categories

Schools

What does the legislation say?

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides for free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

In the Act, a 'Parent' includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for a child including parental responsibility under the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

What do schools pay for as part of 'free instruction'?



Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

The standard curriculum for Years F-10 means implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

The standard curriculum for senior secondary schools means a program that enables a student to be awarded a VCE or VCAL qualification.

What principles govern parent payment practice?

Educational Value | Access, Equity & Inclusion | Affordability
Engagement & Support | Respect & Confidentiality | Transparency & Accountability

Parents

What may parents be asked to pay for?

Schools can request payment for Essential Student Learning Items



These are items, activities or services that the school deems **essential** to student learning of the standard curriculum.

Where practical and appropriate, parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own.

These may also be either:

Items the student takes temporary or permanent possession of

- e.g.
- textbooks, activity books, exercise books
- stationery, book bags
- student ID cards, locks
- cooking ingredients students will consume
- materials for final products that students take home (technology projects, build-your-own kits, dioramas)
- Picture Exchange Communication Systems

Activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend

i.e. travel, entry fees or accommodation

- e.g.
- excursions
- incursions
- school sports
- work placements



Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in the three Parent Payment Categories:

Essential Student Learning Items,
Optional Items and
Voluntary Financial Contributions.

Schools determine how items, activities and services are classified within these categories based on the learning and teaching program of their school.

Schools can request payment for Optional Items

These are items, activities or services that are **optional** and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.

Students may access these on a user-pays basis.

These may be either:

Items the student purchases or hires

- e.g.
- school magazines, class photos
- functions, formals, graduation dinners
- materials for extra curricular programs
- student accident insurance

Activities the student purchases

- e.g.
- fees for extra curricular programs or activities, such as instrumental music tuition
- fees for guest speakers
- camps, excursions, incursions, sports
- entry fees for school run performances

Items and/or materials that are more expensive than required to meet the standard curriculum

- e.g.
- use of silver in metal work instead of copper
- supplementary exam revision guides

Support for families experiencing hardship is available at every school and each school has a parent payment contact person. See your school's policy for more information.

For more information on Parent Payments and Personal Devices, visit the DET website at: www.education.vic.gov.au

Schools can invite
**Voluntary
Financial
Contributions**
for



- e.g.
- Building or Library fund (Tax deductible)
- Voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, such as equipment, materials, services.
- General voluntary contributions