

20 November 2023

## Steiner – Foundation

Dear parent/guardian,

Thornbury Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Thornbury Primary School's Steiner stream financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum requirements and all contributions towards this provision are voluntary. Schools may also offer alternative streams of instruction, such as Steiner, to broaden the educational experience of students. Experiences such as Steiner are beyond the standard Victorian curriculum and are provided on a user-pays basis (extra-curricular). The STEM Garden class offered to all students, is also an extra-curricular program requiring a payment of \$100 per student.

Within our school this support has allowed us to purchase Steiner specific resources across the curriculum and Steiner specific furniture and items for the classrooms. It also ensures that staff have access to ongoing Steiner professional development to improve their pedagogy.

Further information regarding these contributions is outlined on the following pages. Please note that incursions, excursions, and camps are not included in this payment. These events will be invoiced as they occur throughout the year.

Thornbury Primary School makes every effort to keep financial contribution requirements to a minimum, and to be affordable for all families. We understand that some families may face financial difficulty, and to support families, there is a range of support options and alternative payment arrangements available. For a confidential discussion, please contact our Business Manager, Shirley Brown on 9484 3254.

We want to thank you for all your support, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

In 2024, some of these funds will be used to implement and resource a STEM program at our school, to continue upgrading classroom reading materials, and to install or replace air conditioning to classrooms that experience weather extremes.

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

Yours sincerely,



David Wells

Principal



Michael Finger

School Council President

## Parent Payments Policy 2024 Steiner

### Alternative Program Steiner funding sources

Thornbury Primary School (TPS) operates from four sources of funding:

- Family Curriculum Consumables and Extra Curriculum Payments
- Grants
- Community Fundraising

Parent Payments are essential to fund Steiner as an alternative curriculum program:

- Individual student materials and consumables required for learning.
- Teaching materials and consumables required for the class programs
- Specialist program costs, educational items, equipment
- Additional operational costs associated with learning programs

### TPS School Council

The TPS School Council are responsible for overseeing budgets and setting parent payment fees for curriculum and extra-curricular activities each year.

### Family Payment Fee Schedule

School Council is committed to provide a streamed independent, itemised, and transparent fee schedule for each 2024 Curriculum Contribution and Extra Curricular activity and item.

See enclosed Payment Notice for full details.

All family payments for student learning items and activities will increase and will vary depending on year level. The 2024 fees are as follows:

• Steiner Foundation	\$730
• Steiner Year 1 with recorder (\$85)	\$815
• Steiner Year 2 (no recorder)	\$730
• Steiner Year 3	\$940
• Steiner Years 4 – 6	\$1180

The fees include: -

- Mindful Movement as the weekly movement and meditation practice
- Accurate calculation of the Environmental Science Garden Program costs
- Class 1 recorders: TPS Steiner College requires a specific model of recorders supplied by TPS that are identical for all students.
- Steiner Craft & music fees reflect material costs.
- Class plays and year level appropriate class items have also been factored into the fee calculation.

Steiner education requires specific resources, and the cost must be covered by families who choose the

Steiner Stream for their children, as per the TPS Memorandum of Understanding

### Payment Methods

Several payment methods will be available including BPay, CompassPay, in person or by phone. Payment plans can be established on Compass or individually with the Business Manager at the school.

See full payment options and details on enclosed Payment form.

### Key Dates

**November:** Fee statements will be sent to families via mail and Compass.

- Families can begin making payments from November 27<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- Families need to return the enclosed Payment Form by January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- If paying by instalments, the first payment must be made by Friday December 15. All payments, either by instalments or in full, must be finalised by March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (end of term 1)
- Conversations with the Principal regarding unpaid fees will commence at the expiration of the due date/s.

### Financial Assistance

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

- State Schools Relief
- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Please contact the office for information on how to apply.
- 4 instalment payment plans. Choose through Compass OR
- Individualised payment plans, please contact TPS directly.

### Contact TPS

For a confidential discussion regarding financial assistance options, or individualised payment plans, families may contact the Principal or Business Manager via email.

### 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.

[thornbury.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:thornbury.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or ph: 9484 3254

Extra-Curriculum Items: Alternative Curriculum – Steiner Foundation	Amount
<p><b>Steiner Specific Items</b></p> <p>Steiner specific individual student stationery &amp; materials including drawing &amp; watercolour papers, main lesson books, block &amp; stick Stockmar crayons, Lyra pencils, specialised blackboard chalk, wet on wet painting paper, Stockmar paints, wool, paintbrushes, beeswax, fountain pens, ink, Mercurius watercolour pencils. Steiner Classroom items such as materials for crayon rolls, pencil rolls, chair bags, nature table items, toys and furniture.</p>	\$190
<p><b>Steiner Specific Professional Development</b></p> <p>Supports Steiner staff to attend Steiner specific PD additional to the standard DET training</p>	\$60
<p><b>Steiner Affiliations</b></p> <p>Steiner Education Australia Subscription. Class Plays</p>	\$20
<p><b>Specialist Programs (Craft, Music) consumables</b></p> <p>Consumables associated with special programs: books, paper, glues, paints, felts. Purchase maintenance of music classroom instruments.</p>	\$100
<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <p>Curriculum aligned, garden-based Environmental Science Kitchen Garden program. All TPS students receive an equal amount of class time in a two week cycle every second term</p>	\$100
<p><b>Mindful Movement</b></p> <p>Mindful Movement: Dance and meditation</p>	\$260
<b>Total Extra-Curriculum Items/Alternative Curriculum</b>	<b>\$730</b>

Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities Suggested contributions are listed below. Families are welcome to contribute an alternate amount value depending on their individual circumstances	Amount
<p><b>Non-curriculum consumables, such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid and Hygiene costs</li> <li>• School Grounds maintenance and improvements</li> <li>• Student Support Fund: a voluntary contribution that may help provide curriculum consumables and some additional programs for one child</li> </ul>	<p>\$50</p> <p>\$50</p> <p>\$</p>
<b>Total Other Contributions</b>	<b>\$</b>

Other Extra-Curricular Activities and Items Thornbury PS offers a range of items & activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the curriculum.	Amount
<p>Excursions &amp; Incursions: Additional school charges may arise through the year such as excursions, swimming, 5/6 interschool sport, school photos. These charges will be notified to parents as early as possible by teaching staff and through Compass. (Please see information re. Compass payments attached)</p>	

Total Extra Curricular and Other Contributions Calculation	Totals
Steiner Extra Curricular – Alternative Program (Foundation)	\$630.00
Extra-Curricular Garden Class Program (required)	\$100.00
Other Contributions – Grounds	\$
Other Contributions – First Aid & Hygiene	\$
Other Contributions – Student Support Fund	\$
<b>Total</b> <i>(please insert total to be paid)</i>	<b>\$</b>

Please see payment form next page.



# 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) 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.