

November 3, 2025

Year 7 Parent Payment Arrangements, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Colac Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

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 thank you for all your support, whether that be through financial contributions, 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 provide the following:

- Practical consumables and classroom equipment to facilitate learning
- Specialist software, online programs, and assessment tools to gauge student progress
- Resources, worksheets and learning materials
- Leadership and personal development opportunities for our students
- Access to the Compass Portal, which connects you and your child's learning with staff at the College
- Whole-school events such as athletics and swimming carnivals
- Access to library resources
- Building and landscaping works within the College
- Classroom and study furniture upgrades in student buildings

Support from parents connected with the College continues to enable us to provide an outstanding secondary curriculum program for our students from Years 7 – 12 and, ultimately, continue to raise the achievements of our students.

I therefore wish to thank all parents in anticipation of their ongoing support of the College.

For further information on the Department's Parental Payments Policy, see the one-page overview attached.

Yours Sincerely,



Skye Bannan
Principal



Natasha Thompson
School Council President

COLAC SECONDARY COLLEGE

Year 7 Parent Payment Arrangements, 2026

Student Name: _____

| Curriculum Contributions: items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum | Recommended Contribution | Contribution Amount |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Year 7 classroom consumables, materials and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art: paint, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, clay – \$20.00 • Food Tech: flour, milk, eggs, butter, fruit, vegetables, meat, rice, pasta, sugar, oil etc. – \$35.00 • Science: chemicals, practical consumables, poster paper – \$10.00 • Dance/Drama: costumes, masks, scripts – \$10.00 • Music Technology: contribution to online Soundtrap program and Musicianship student workbooks – \$10.00 • Material Technology: timber, wire, screws, sandpaper, LED lights, circuit consumables, project kits, fabric, cotton, project items – \$35.00 • Health and Physical Education: equipment and learning consumables – \$10.00 | \$130.00 | |
| Year 7 Printing and Photocopying: worksheets and learning materials | \$10.00 | |
| Year 7 Learning Resources: folders, binder books, pens, pencils, highlighters supplied throughout the year | \$20.00 | |
| Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities | Recommended Contribution | Contribution Amount |
| Whole-School Events Athletics Carnival, Swimming Carnivals and Activities | \$10.00 | |
| Student and Parent Communication Tools (Compass) | \$10.00 | |
| Library and Wellbeing Resources (including activity days) | \$10.00 | |
| Building and Grounds Improvements | \$10.00 | |
| TOTAL AMOUNT | \$200.00 | |

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Educational Items for Students to Own

Booklists:

Attached is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase from Blanes Newsagency for your child to individually own and use. To receive goods from Blanes Newsagency for the start of the school year, please complete and return to the College by Friday 12th December 2025.

Learning Device:

All Year 7 students are encouraged to have their own laptop device with College Network Access.

Year 7 families can purchase their laptop via the LWT Portal. Please visit the College website to view the portal www.colac-sc.vic.edu.au. Laptops will be delivered to the College in January 2026 and will be ready within the first two weeks of Term 1.

Several payment options are available, including lay-by.

Students who do not have a device will have access to a shared device for class use only.

Discount Vouchers:

If purchasing via the LWT Portal, Year 7 students are eligible to receive a \$150.00 discount voucher towards their device. Voucher must be obtained prior to purchase. To receive your voucher code, please contact our ICT Team Leader Katrina.Featherstone@education.vic.gov.au.

Uniforms:

All students are expected to wear full school uniform. Uniform items can be purchased at Borne Apparel, 216 Murray Street Colac, or online. Please visit <https://shop.borneapparel.com.au/products/>

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Colac Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

If you would like your child to be involved in any of the below, please refer to costings for a guide to amounts that will be owing in 2026 for these programs.

| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (Guide Only) | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Year 7 school camp (February 2026) – highly recommended | \$250.00 | |
| Optional: Interschool Sports Events (where bus travel is involved – pay in 2026) | \$15.00 – \$20.00 | |
| Optional: Sporting Pathways Program – select entry (pay in 2026) | \$200.00 | |

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| Optional: Football (AFL) Development Program – select entry (pay in 2026) | \$200.00 | |
| Optional: Instrumental Hire – application process (pay in 2026) | \$100.00 | |

Support for Families

Colac Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulties and offers a range of support options for eligible families, including:

- **Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund (CSEF)**
- **Centrelink payments to school on fortnightly basis**
- **State Schools Relief (SSR)**
- **Payment Plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

Payment Methods

- **Compass Online Payments** – through the Parent Portal (Recommended method)
- **Direct Deposit** into the College’s bank account (BSB: 063 510 ACC: 1030 2816) – please email colac.sc@education.vic.gov.au to inform your direct deposit amount and reason
- **EFTPOS** – in person or over the phone
- **BPAY** – please email colac.sc@education.vic.gov.au to request your personalised BPAY details
- **Centrepay** – only available to holders of Centrelink Benefit Cards – to be arranged by the cardholder directly through Centrelink (CRN 555 056 147X)

Refunds

Parent/Guardian requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and are made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, and other relevant information.

A copy of the College’s Parent Payment Policy is available on our website.

www.colac-sc.vic.edu.au

All Other Parent Payment Arrangement Queries

For a confidential discussion about accessing support services, or if you have any account queries, contact the College Finance Team via email on colac.sc@education.vic.gov.au or phone 5231 9800.

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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.

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