



November 2023

2024 Family Financial Contributions

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Teaching and learning preparations for 2024 are well underway, with exciting growth, improvement and innovation to all curriculum areas being carefully planned.

As such, we respectfully invite you to make your 2024 financial contribution to support the teaching and learning programs for your daughter. While payment of curriculum contributions is voluntary, we know our families respect and appreciate the outstanding education experience their child receives at MGSC and understand that all government schools in our socio-economic band are highly dependent on the income received from generous financial contributions.

Financial contributions from our families are vital to the quality of the education experience we provide.

We introduce in 2024, the ability to pay your contribution in 5 instalments. We anticipate this will help families with budgeting, of course, payment in full remains an option, if preferred.

We invite our school community to support their school through your timely contributions.

Any questions, please contact our Business Manager.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Brown
Principal

Rachael Angus
College Council President



Information from the College Council about the financial arrangements at MGSC

State Schools are funded by the Department of Education, including a budget for staff salaries and provision of the physical buildings. In addition, schools receive an annual cash grant from DET, based on enrolments, which subsidises the cost of utilities, building maintenance, staff absence replacement. Funding is also given for DET led specific student initiatives, eg: the current Tutor program, student mental health support, promotion of student excellence, literacy and numeracy programs and career education.

DET recognises that their base funding is not sufficient to provide the high-quality education students need in today's complex world and be able to compete on a level playing field with privately educated cohorts for university places and employment. Therefore, DET allows schools to ask families for financial contributions to address shortfalls.

For schools with high enrolments from areas of socio-economic disadvantage, significant, additional funding is provided. This "Equity" funding was introduced as a result of the historic Gonski Report, which recommended a national "needs-based" funding model. The Equity funding assists schools to employ additional staff to support students. In addition, as recognition that families on lower incomes will not be able to contribute financially, extra cash funding, which is used to enhance and broaden the curriculum.

In middle class areas, where less students are socio-economic disadvantaged, schools receive a correspondingly low amount of Equity funding. MGSC fits into this category and thus we receive a small amount of "Equity" funding to subsidise and support students from low-income families. The formula takes into consideration that some parents are in a financial position to contribute financially to a level, which is roughly equivalent to the equity received for the disadvantaged students. Hence DET allow state schools to make this request of parents. The aim is to have all schools in the same financial position to provide a high-quality educational experience for their students.

We appreciate the high proportion of MGSC parents who have historically paid the contributions. With these additional funds, we can provide a more dynamic and engaging curriculum to students. Each year the College Council, through the Financial Sub-Committee, scrutinise the monthly financial reports, ensuring every dollar received from families is used during the school year and for the direct and immediate benefit to each student.

Parents have made these payments voluntarily in the past. There are, and never have been, any consequences for families who choose not to contribute. However, our school, like our neighbours and indeed all similar government schools in Victoria, are highly dependent on receiving these funds.

**Financial Contributions from parents make a fundamental difference
to our ability to offer a comprehensive and unique experience for our students,
one of which we are extremely proud.**

mentone girls' secondary college

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