

Valkstone Primary School, No. 4778



VALKSTONE STREET, EAST BENTLEIGH 3165

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Explanation of charges – Important information

The Victorian Government funds schools to provide students with free instruction in the Standard Curriculum and for general running costs such as cleaning, electricity and some administrative expenses. Valkstone has determined its essential student learning items, additional resources & programs and optional extras for 2021 are collected through the following categories of parent payments.

Valkstone Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our parent payment arrangements for 2021. Costs were approved by School Council and in the Newsletter Issue 29, 2020

Essential Student Learning Items

Parents/guardians are required to provide:

- **Curriculum** – these are items and activities which are essential for your child to learn the standard curriculum. You may choose to purchase these items through the school or provide your own.
- **Stationery** – Valkstone has purchased all items in bulk, specific to their year level so that all children have stationery and equipment as it is needed. The school has worked with an external company –to negotiate extremely competitive prices for the stationery. Alternately, parents can request the Stationery List and purchase stationery from their own suppliers. ***The complete list of stationery items is required for every child.*** *Valkstone* makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

Optional Items – User Pays Basis

Teachers at Valkstone pride themselves on the fabulous programs offered to support the Victorian Curriculum. They work hard to deliver these activities at extremely competitive prices. The value these optional learning experiences add to your child cannot be underestimated. Optional programs help to develop confidence, self-awareness, new skills, organisation and above all support academic achievement. Studies into student participation and overall development and achievement show that those children exposed to a wide level of experiences in their early years have an improved educational profile. At Valkstone we strive to develop the whole child to their fullest potential.

Included in this section are incursions, excursions, sporting and musical activities, swimming program and camps. Payment and consent must be received by the due date for children to participate in these activities.

Voluntary Contributions - optional

School Council invites parents and guardians of a student enrolled at the school, or anyone else, to make a donation in the form of a voluntary financial contribution to the school.

- **Library Fund Contribution** (this is a tax-deductible contribution to the school)
- **Digital Technologies Contribution** – classroom and DT/Multi Media resources
- **Building Fund** (this is a tax-deductible contribution to the school)

Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a voluntary contribution. All records are confidential.

Refunds for essential education items and optional extras will be granted in line with the school's refund policy. Voluntary contributions cannot be refunded.

If you have a credit on your family account carried over from 2020, this has been carried forward towards any charges for 2021.

Financial Support for Families

Valkstone understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers support options:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. Application forms available at the Office.
- Confidential payment plan.

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

Marilyn Koolstra, Principal Ph: 03 9570 3986 or email Marilyn.Koolstra@education.vic.gov.au

We would appreciate payment by 31st March, 2021.