



2024 SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE

Ballarat Steiner school is an independent, non-denominational, coeducational school. We are a not-for-profit incorporated association and a member of Steiner Education Australia and Independent Schools Victoria. This fee schedule applies to Australian citizens and permanent residents. Our fees indicated below, incorporate all costs, such as student resources, swimming lessons, strings classes, camps and excursions. A recorder is given to all children in class one and is included in the class one fee. If a child enrolls at the school after class one, a fee for a recorder will be charged, which is approximately \$90.00. Students begin tuition on a strings instrument in class three. The purchase of the instrument for your child is the responsibility of the family.

Application Fee \$ 200.00

Our Application fee is a one-off non-refundable fee payable upon a family applying for a child's place in our kindergarten and/or school. This fee is to offset the administrative costs associated with enrolments. It is not a guarantee of an offer of a place in the kindergarten or school, although the date the application fee is paid will be used in confirming your place on our waiting list.

Refundable Enrolment Bond \$ 500.00

When accepting an offer of place, a bond of \$500 per child is payable. The bond must be paid prior to commencement. The enrolment bond is refundable when the child finishes school at the end of year 6, or when one full term's notice of withdrawal is given. The bond is refunded within 30 days from when the child leaves, providing there are no outstanding fees. For re-enrolling students, a new enrolment bond is required, even if the previous bond was forfeited.

Fees and Terms

By enrolling your child at Ballarat Steiner School, you agree to abide by the school's payment terms and conditions specified below and further agree to abide by the school's Code of Conduct.

<u>School fees</u>	<u>Per Term</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Prep or Foundation	\$ 1,350	\$5,400
Class 1	\$ 1,480	\$5,920
Class 2	\$ 1,480	\$5,920
Class 3	\$ 1,770	\$7,080
Class 4	\$ 1,770	\$7,080
Class 5	\$ 1,770	\$7,080
Class 6	\$ 2,050	\$8,200

In January, every family with a child/ren enrolled in the school, will receive an invoice for their child/ren's annual fees. For children living more than 4.8kms from the school, this invoice will also have an estimate of their conveyance allowance credited against it. The conveyance allowance amount may change during the year for various reasons, including if the student's residential address changes. A payment agreement outlining the amounts required for fortnightly, monthly, or termly payments will also be emailed out. Payments can be made throughout the year to the end of

November. Any fees outstanding at the end of November will be put through to a fee collection agency unless an arrangement has been made with the Business Manager. At the beginning of each month, statements will be emailed to families. Please check your statements to ensure your regular payments will meet your obligation to pay all fees by the end of November.

The school assumes that each student enrolled in the school from prep to class 5 will continue their education journey with the school until the completion of class 6. If there is to be a change in this arrangement written notice must be given to the School, giving at least one term's notice, or the term fee will be payable in lieu of notice.

Payment methods are:

- *Card payments through the front office - incurring a 2% charge.*
- *Internet banking direct deposit paid into our Bank Account.
Ballarat Steiner School: BSB 063 870 Account. 1013 7499
Please use your child's surname as a reference.*
- *Cash or Cheque at any Commonwealth bank branch quoting the school's bank account number and your child's surname as reference*
- *Cash or Cheque payments made through the front office. Please do not send cash in with your child to pay accounts.*

Late Payment of fees

A late payment fee of 1.5% per month will be charged on fees not paid by the commencement of the following term if no prior arrangement has been made with the Business Manager. If your account is given to the debt collector, any charges incurred will be added to your account. Failure to pay fees may result in the termination of the student's continuing enrolment in the school, kindergarten, or playgroup.

Sibling Discount Fee reduction rate

A reduction in fees will be applied where two or more siblings of the one family attend the school concurrently. The discount is 15% for the first sibling, 30% for the second sibling and 65% for third and subsequent siblings. This discount will be applied to the annual fee, including all excursions, camps etc.

Garden Contribution Scheme

The Garden Contribution Scheme provides parents with the opportunity to contribute their energy and service to the school in lieu of fees. Parents are welcome to attend working bees, held termly at both the kindergarten and the school or work independently in the garden. The scheme is charged at the beginning of each year at 8 hours per family or 4 hours per parent at \$20.00 per hour. The amount will be invoiced and allocated to your account in term one and you will have until the end of the school year to contribute to the garden. The scheme is to allow choice for families depending on their lifestyle and is per family. Extra hours may be worked and are welcomed but will not be credited against your account.

Financial Assistance

A Financial Assistance Discount is available for those school families who register a valid Health Care Card with the office. This is a 20% discount on the annual fee, or pro rata from when the Health Care Card is presented. To receive the discount please lodge a copy of your concession card with the office. The discount will become effective immediately after the card is lodged. Your invoice cannot be back dated, but the discount will be given pro rata for the term. CSEF payments will be absorbed within the financial assistance discount.

Bursaries

We offer partial fee assistance to those families with children enrolled in the school, who come into financial hardship. Applications are accepted up to the beginning of the school year. Please contact the Business Manager to begin the application process. It is a condition of the bursary that the

recipients' account with the school always remains within account terms. Those families with outstanding fees from previous years may not be eligible to apply for the bursary for the following year. All other discounts, such as sibling, financial or CSEF payments are absorbed within the bursary discount.

The Bursary is not available to Kindergarten Students.

A family who identifies as Torres Strait islander or Aboriginal heritage will automatically receive a bursary against their school fees.

Fundraising Commitment

There is always an expectation and hope that parents will become involved in fundraising.

Fundraising addresses other issues beyond raising money. It also contributes to community engagement and to the presence our kindergarten and school holds within the larger community.

Committee Commitment to Early Childhood programs

In years of low enrolment in the kindergarten, a percentage of school tuition fees paid by families will be utilised to financially support the operation of the kindergarten. The committee of management is conscious of this cost to the school and is comfortable to support the kindergarten as a feeder to the school.

Family Setup

We are aware that family's set up can vary and we are comfortable to work with you to accommodate those variations. We require both parents to sign the enrolment form, and if a third party is involved in paying the fees, they are also required to sign the enrolment form. If circumstances change regarding the responsibility of fee payment, a signed letter from all parties involved must be received by the office prior to any change being implemented.

Extended Vacations

If a family is on an extended holiday, they may make an application via the Committee for a fee reduction. A 50% discount may be given for those families away from the school for one term or more. If your child does not attend the school for a period of six months or more, or you do not have a clear return date, re-enrolment at the school will be required.

Donations

The school is continually undertaking capital building projects as part of the School Strategic Plan which require regular financial commitments. Donations to the School's Building Fund are encouraged on a voluntary basis any time within the year and are fully tax deductible. The bank account details are:

Ballarat Steiner School

Building Fund Account

BSB: 063-870 Account: 1014 5712.

Debt Collection Procedure

As a last resort, the Committee will use a Debt Collection Agency and/or legal action when there has not been acceptable communication or responses to earlier approaches. Cost incurred by the school for such actions will be passed directly on to the family. Final consequences will be the termination of the student's enrolment.