

ELECTRONIC FUNDS MANAGEMENT POLICY



Approved by the School Council in FEB 2026.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out how our school will manage electronic funds in accordance with applicable Department of Education and Training policy and law.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff/responsible persons involved in management of funds transacted electronically
- all transactions carried out by Thornbury High School via the methods set out in this policy

POLICY

Thornbury High School has developed this policy consistently with the Schools Electronic Funds Management Guidelines and Section 4 Internal Controls of the Finance Manual for Victorian Government schools.

Implementation

- Thornbury High School school council requires that all actions related to internet banking are consistent with The Department's Schools Electronic Funds Management Guidelines.
- Thornbury High School school council approves the use of Commbiz as the approved software for all internet banking activities as individual authority and security tokens are required.
- All payments through internet banking software must be consistent with Department requirements and must be authorised by the Principal and one other member of the school council nominated by the school council.
- Thornbury High School school council will determine how refunds will be processed and any refunds processed through the EFTPOS terminal will be witnessed by the Business Manager or Principal, and recorded in a refund register.
- Thornbury High School will undertake maintenance and upgrading of hardware and software as required.
- Thornbury High School will ensure proper retention/disposal of all transaction records relating to accounts such as purchase orders, tax invoices/statements, vouchers, payroll listings and relevant CASES21 reports.

EFTPOS

- The Principal of Thornbury High School will ensure all staff operating the merchant facility are aware of security requirements.
- School council minutes must record which staff are authorised to process transactions.
- No "Cash Out" will be permitted on any school EFTPOS facility.
- Thornbury High School will accept EFTPOS transactions via telephone or post.

Direct Debit

- All direct debit agreements must be approved and signed by the school council prior to implementation.
- The school council requires all suppliers to provide tax invoices/statements to the school prior to direct debiting any funds from the school's account
- The direct debit facility effectively allows an external source e.g. financial institution, supplier etc. to remove or 'sweep' funds pertaining to a pre-arranged amount and date from the school's official bank account on a regular or ad hoc basis e.g. computer lease payment. Any such payments will be authorised as appropriate and required.
- Thornbury High School will ensure adequate funds are available in the Official Account for the "sweep" of funds to the supplier.

Direct Deposit

- Thornbury High School utilises a “two user authorisation of payments” banking package, as it contains a greater degree of security and access controls.
- Creditor details will be kept up to date and the treatment of GST for creditors will be monitored.
- Payment transactions will be uploaded as a batch through the CASES21 system.
- All payments made through the internet banking system must be authorised by two authorised officers.
- The various internal controls that need to be considered include:
 - the identification of staff with administrative responsibilities
 - the identification of staff with authorisation/signatory responsibilities
 - the Business Manager must not have banking authorisation/signatory responsibilities other than for the transferring of funds between school bank accounts
 - the allocation and security of personal identification number (PIN) information or software authorisation tokens
 - the setting up of payee details in CASES21
 - the authorisation of transfer of funds from the official account to payee accounts
 - alternative procedures for processing, using the direct deposit facility, for periods of the Business Manager’s and Principal leave of absence.

BPay

Thornbury High School school council will approve in writing the school council’s decision for the utilisation of BPAY. This includes a requirement for the principal to sign and date BPay transaction receipts attached to authorised payment vouchers. Payments made by BPay are subject to the same requirements as for all transactions relating to accounts such as:

- purchase orders
- tax invoices/statements
- payment vouchers
- signed screen prints and payee details
- relevant CASES21 reports etc.

Third party internet revenue collection

Schools can engage a third party company or product to facilitate electronic payments by way of credit and debit card transactions through a secure internet payment gateway. Use of this form of revenue collection allows schools to increase the options and convenience provided to parents/debtors, as well as improves security by reducing the amount of cash handled and kept on school premises. School decisions and policy creation Prior to introducing a third party company or product, the school council should give consideration to:

- the cost and benefits for the school
- accounting for payments and refunds
- fraud prevention
- the validity of the company to be engaged
- information privacy
- website security controls
- terms and conditions of use of the service

School council should approve in writing the school’s decision for the utilisation of a third party company or product following consideration of the advantages and disadvantages, and internal controls required to be implemented. If the school council recommends the utilisation of a third party company or product, appropriate procedures and practices in the form of a school third party company or product policy, need to be prepared and formally minuted at school council prior to using the facility. This could be achieved by developing and gaining endorsement of a Schools Electronic Funds Management policy that deals satisfactorily with all possible internal controls issues. The policy should clearly state what is and also what is not accepted procedure e.g. detailing the schools process for applying receipts to invoices should be stated in the policy. The Schools Electronic Funds Management policy should be reviewed at least once per year to confirm/enhance internal controls.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [Finance Manual for Victorian Government Schools](#)
 - [Section 3 Risk Management](#)
 - [Section 4 Internal Controls](#)
 - [Section 10 Receivables Management and Cash Handling](#)
- [School Policy and Advisory Guide: Financial Management for Schools Resources](#)
 - CASES21 Guide to Budget Management in Schools
 - [Section 1: Families](#)
- [Schools Electronic Funds Management Guidelines](#)
- [Internal Controls for Victorian Government Schools](#)
- [ICT Security Policy](#)
- [Public Records Office Victoria](#)
- [Policy and Advisory Library: Records Management – School Records](#)

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Council to confirm/enhance internal control procedures. Proposed amendments to this policy will be discussed with General Office Staff, the Finance subcommittee, and School Council.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated February 2026 and is scheduled for review in February 2027.