FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fees are levied for attendance at Catholic Schools.

Regrettably fees are a necessary fact of life for schools such as ours. Our system gets some funds from the State Government and greater support from the Federal Government. These funds account for about 80% of the cost of educating a child. In other words Catholic schools receive only about 80% of the funding which is spent on each child in the State Education system.

We are grateful for the support we receive from governments but it also needs noting that independent schools in Australia - of which group Catholic schools represent the bulk - actually SAVE governments in Australia many millions of dollars every year against what it would cost the government if all of our students suddenly sought state education services, so these subsidies are in no way generous ‘handouts’ to our schools.

Our system, of necessity, must operate on considerably less expenditure per pupil than the government school systems. That is, we can justly claim to use our limited funds very efficiently.

There are three components which make up the cost of attendance at a Catholic School.

1. **Tuition Fees**
2. **Diocesan Levies**
3. **School Levies**

TUITION FEES 2014

The rate of school fees is determined by the Diocese. Fees are collected by the school on behalf of the Diocese. The fees are used by the Diocese, together with government grants, to provide staff and operate the system.

The fees are payable to the Diocese irrespective of whether the assessed amount has been collected from parents, that is, the school must make up any shortfall from its own funds.

**School Fees – why are they necessary?**

Federal and State governments acknowledge the right of parents to choose the school which best suits their children’s needs for educational, religious, cultural or other reasons.

However, in comparison with funds spent on children in government schools, government funds committed to non-government schools remain limited. Your contribution through school fees is essential to the continued operation of your Catholic school.
## 2014 TUITION FEE SCHEDULE

### Tuition fee per student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students in Diocesan Schools</th>
<th>One 0%</th>
<th>Two 12.5%</th>
<th>Three 35%</th>
<th>Four 50%</th>
<th>Five 60%</th>
<th>Six 70%</th>
<th>Seven 80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY – per week</td>
<td>$27.50</td>
<td>$24.06</td>
<td>$17.88</td>
<td>$13.75</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$8.25</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY – per term</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
<td>$240.60</td>
<td>$178.80</td>
<td>$137.50</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
<td>$82.50</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY – per year</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
<td>$962.50</td>
<td>$715.00</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
<td>$440.00</td>
<td>$330.00</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Weekly amounts are calculated on 40 school weeks per year.

In areas of the Diocese where no regional Catholic Secondary College is readily accessible, a maximum family fee of $1750.00 for primary tuition fees applies if a family has secondary students attending a Catholic Boarding School.

### SCHOOL LEVIES

School-Based Levies are charges for curriculum resources, library books and printing and technology levies. These levies are set by the School Board – to be no greater than 25% of the non-discounted tuition fees per student.

#### A. GENERAL LEVY

The Materials & Consumables Levy operates on a per child basis and is charged each Quarter. It represents a partial contribution to the costs of day-to-day consumables and text material etc used by pupils as part of their normal class learning program. An opportunity is provided, through contact with the principal, for families with three or more children to pay less than the total levy amount where they feel these costs are difficult for them to meet. However, as a general principle, this levy is charged on a per-pupil basis as the most equitable way of reflecting actual operational costs of our school.

*Materials & Consumables Levy - 2014*

$30.00 per term per student

#### B. GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE LEVY

The Grounds and Maintenance Levy operates on a basis which recognizes family commitments. A family maximum of $50 per family per Quarter is charged. It represents a contribution toward the costs associated with building and classroom maintenance as well as grounds care.

*Grounds and Maintenance Levy - 2014*

$25.00 per student per term

Maximum of $50.00 per family per term
C. TECHNOLOGY LEVY:

Schools may charge a Technology Capital Levy of $90.00 per student up to a maximum of $180 per family. This levy would not be included as part of the 25% as in general levies.

In situations where a family has two or more children across Catholic Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools, the priority for payment of the levy will be given to the Diocesan Primary School. The levy is to be used strictly for technology capital purposes at the school level.

The Technology Levy operates on a per student basis with a maximum of $180.00 per family. It represents a contribution towards the maintenance and replacement of technology hardware and software.

*Technology Levy - 2014*

* $90.00 per student per year
* Maximum of $180.00 per family per year

D. PARENTS’ & FRIENDS’ LEVIES:

Parents and Friends’ in consultation with their school community and Board may introduce a P & F levy in lieu of significant fund raising. Such a levy is voluntary and not included in the 25% as for General Levies.

This levy represents a contribution to fund major projects to enhance the quality of facilities offered to students. In 2004, the P & F recognized the many commitments of families and the inability of parents to support major fundraising. They elected to move to a levy system as a way of providing major enhancements to the facilities offered to children at our school. Over recent years, the P&F Association paid to complete air-conditioning to all classrooms, and in 2006 they supported a major technology upgrade.

*P&F Levy - 2014*

* $42.50 per family per term

E. BUILDING LEVY:

Families will appreciate that there is a substantial cost to the Diocese in maintaining and developing the existing school buildings. It is necessary to raise capital income to service related debt or to otherwise support capital works. A differential approach is in place to account for capital income as shown below.

Each family will be charged a building levy (Primary) of $80 per term ($320 per year) per family with normal school fee billings

As this amount forms a collectable part of school fees no tax deduction is possible.

*Primary School Building Levy – 2014*

* $80.00 per family per term
SPECIFIC PURPOSE CHARGES:

Additional charges may apply for specific purposes e.g. travel and accommodation related to school field trips and camps, excursions and transport to swimming pools etc. These costs are additional to school based levies.

If you require further assistance, the Diocesan policy states:

“No students should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents to pay the prescribed fee – in whole or in part.”

Total or partial exemption from the payment of fees is available on application to the Principal to ensure that confidentiality is maintained.

TOTAL COSTS

The total cost of educating each child is calculated by adding up Tuition Fees, Diocesan Levies and School Levies. In addition you will be charged for incidental costs of excursions, Art Council performances etc.

EXAMPLES of total costs per year is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUTION FEES</th>
<th>One Child</th>
<th>Three Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Fees per year</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
<td>$2,145.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL LEVIES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Levy</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$360.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P &amp; F Levy</td>
<td>$170.00</td>
<td>$170.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Levy</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Levy</td>
<td>$320.00</td>
<td>$320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Fee</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL COST PER YEAR (without incidental costs) | $1,940.00 | $3,415.00 |

SCHOOL FEES COLLECTION GUIDELINES

SCHOOL FEE ASSISTANCE

If you require school fee assistance, the Diocesan policy states:

“No students should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents to pay the prescribed fee – in whole or in part.”

Parents have a responsibility and an obligation to pay school fees and levies according to Diocesan Policy Guidelines and account procedures.

Our School and Parish are serious about our commitment to the philosophy stated in the Diocesan Policy. If there are genuine financial difficulties we will try to help.

Total or partial exemption from the payment of fees is available on application to the Principal to ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Diocesan policy states
that exemptions are made every 12 months. All we ask is that you are also genuine when considering how much you are able to contribute.

**PROCEDURES**

1. The annual fee will be billed over four school term instalments.
2. Where practical, accounts will be sent out in the second week of each term requiring payment within 14 days.
3. The account must be paid by the due date shown on the fee statement.
4. It is possible - and preferred by many families - to pay on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Direct Debit is available at no extra cost to parents. See Mrs Hyde for the appropriate form. Parents have an opportunity to indicate the preferred method of payment at the beginning of the year, or upon enrolment. Fees can also be paid by credit card. Other arrangements for payment of fees should be arranged with the Principal.
5. The school Finance Secretary must be contacted to obtain approval for an extension of time if circumstances arise where the account cannot be settled by the due date.
6. All parents with overdue accounts who have not contacted the school and do not have a payment plan will receive an “Urgent Notice - Overdue Account” letter soon after the due date has passed.
7. If no payment is received or contact made with the school within 14 days of sending the “Urgent Notice - Overdue Account” letter, a follow up phone call will be made by the Finance Secretary to ascertain whether the family have received the reminder notice and to inquire as to how the overdue account is to be settled.
8. If no response is forthcoming the matter will be referred to the Principal and the “Final Demand - Overdue Account” letter will be sent.
9. If no response or reply is forthcoming after 14 days the Principal may then place responsibility for collection in the hands of the Diocesan Collection Agency, Pacific Mercantile.
10. If necessary, the Director of Catholic Education may authorise legal action to recover any outstanding debt.