



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you in relation to school fees and in particular, to provide context to the change in fees at St Mary's for 2026.

Decisions regarding tuition fee adjustments are made with great care and consideration. Our priority remains ensuring that every student at St Mary's Primary School has access to a high-quality education that supports their academic, social, physical, emotional and spiritual development. We also recognise the financial pressures many families have faced over the past few years and remain committed to keeping education as affordable as possible.

Unfortunately, schools are not immune to these cost increases either and we too continue to face increasing expenses. Accordingly, careful consideration of our budgets and data, consultation with our Finance Business Partner and consultation with the St Mary's School Advisory Council has factored into the outcome of our 2026 fee schedule.

Our fees are also impacted by the government's Capacity to Contribute figure which is used to provide limited funding for the operational needs of Catholic primary schools. To recap, the amount of funding Catholic schools receive is reduced by the collective amount that the government expects each student (not family) to contribute via private school fees. This figure is calculated from the school's Direct Measure of Income (DMI). The monetary value of this contribution per student is known as the 'Capacity to Contribute' ("CTC") and it is determined by a range of factors including the demographics of the local area, professional levels of parents and their tax returns.

We continue to have a significant gap between the government's CTC figure for St Mary's and the dollar amount we recoup from our families through school fees. As a result, the school is using its cash reserves, which are intended for investment in facilities such as building upkeep,

refurbishment, resource purchasing and are also used for contributing to the general operational costs of the school.

We have forecasted and are prepared to continue to absorb a portion of the shortfall in 2026 and transition to a new tiered fee structure 2027. This model has been presented to the School Advisory Council and by moving to a tiered, per student system with discounts provided to families with multiple children, we will forecast to close the CTC gap in a few years. This will allow St Mary's to invest in our school, operations and facilities into the future. We will provide more detail around this change in the latter half of 2026.

We have also sought to minimally increase the other levies to assist families in budgeting. With this in mind, please find the 2026 fee structure below:

SMAV 2026 Fees:

2026	Fees		Levies			
	Per family		Per child			
	Family	Building and Maintenance	Curriculum (per child)	Camp	Swimming	Chrome book
Prep	\$3550	\$450	\$430		\$75	
One	\$3550	\$450	\$430		\$75	
Two	\$3550	\$450	\$430		\$75	
Three	\$3550	\$450	\$450		\$75	\$115
Four	\$3550	\$450	\$450	\$380	\$75	\$115
Five	\$3550	\$450	\$430	\$450	\$75	\$115
Six	\$3550	\$450	\$450	\$1200	\$75	\$115

The following fee schedule applies for 2026

Curriculum, Chromebook and Swimming Levy due 13/02/26				
2026	Curriculum Levy	Technology Levy (Chromebook)	Swimming/Water Safety Program Levy	Total
	Per child			
Prep	\$430		\$75	\$505
One	\$430		\$75	\$505
Two	\$430		\$75	\$505
Three	\$450	\$115	\$75	\$640
Four	\$450	\$115	\$75	\$640
Five	\$430	\$115	\$75	\$620
Six	\$450	\$115	\$75	\$640

2026	Family Fee	Building Levy	Total Due	Due Date
Installment 1	\$1185	\$150	\$1335	20/03/26
Installment 2	\$1185	\$150	\$1335	12/06/26
Installment 3	\$1180	\$150	\$1330	04/09/26

Fees will be paid in installments unless a direct debit arrangement has been made.

Payment of camp fees will need to be made 2 weeks prior to the camp dates (see parent calendar).

Full settlement of accounts is welcome at any time, prior to 04/09/26

Thank you for your continued support of our school. If families are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the school for further discussion and support avenues.

Kind regards,



Denis Johnstone
Principal

