Dear SMCM Families,

2027 School Fee Structure

At St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we are committed to helping every child flourish by fostering intellectual curiosity, strengthening character and supporting wellbeing within a nurturing Catholic community.

In planning for 2027, our focus has been to ensure we can continue to provide the high-quality learning opportunities, care and support that families value, while keeping costs as affordable as possible.
As part of this commitment,St Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be transitioning from our traditional flat fee to a tiered family fee structure in 2027.

Why we are moving to tiered family fees
Under a flat fee model, a family pays one set tuition fee regardless of whether they have one child or four children enrolled. Under our new tiered model, fees are set with an upfront fee for the first child and smaller, stepped amounts for additional siblings.

This model is already used successfully across Catholic secondary colleges and over 60% of Catholic primary schools.

Transitioning now addresses three practical realities:

- Fairness for all families: Under a flat fee, families with one child contribute the exact same amount as larger families, even though every child uses facilities, teachers, specialists and resources equally. A tiered structure shares costs more fairly across the whole community, while still providing significant discounts for siblings.

- Matching how our school is funded: Commonwealth and state grants are calculated strictly on a per-child basis. Government funding formulas assume our school collects a fee contribution for each enrolled student. Under a flat family fee, our school foregoes critical operating revenue that the government expects us to receive. A tiered fee closes this gap.

- Protecting school's financial sustainability: This fee model establishes a predictable, dependable financial baseline to retain great teachers, maintain supportive class sizes, and keep classroom resources up to date.

2027 Tiered Fee Schedule
Beginning in the 2027 school year, our annual tuition fee structure will be:

Fees and Levies	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children
School Fees	$2,335	$2,485	$2,635	$2,785
Student Levy (per student)	$565	$1,130	$1,695	$2,260
Building Fund (per family)	$275	$275	$275	$275
Total School Fees	**$3,175**	**$3,890**	**$4,605**	**$5,320**

2027 Fee Structure

- **Annual Tuition Fee: $2,335 for a 1 child family**
  An increase of $4.13 per week for a one child family.
  Tiered Fee: $150 additional per child

- **Curriculum Levy:** $565
  This levy supports a wide range of learning experiences and resources including: excursions, incursions, bus transport and interschool sport, consumables, photocopying and all stationery, other resources such as library books and literature including decodables and novel studies, student Chromebooks and iPads, art supplies, STEM materials, sports equipment and more.

- **Building Fund Contribution:** $275
  This contribution to the School Capital Fund has been reviewed for 2027 to support the upcoming construction of our new school building. This project is partly funded by the Capital Grant awarded in 2024.

Split Payment Options:

No of Children	Total Fees	Weekly 1 Feb - 28 Nov (43 Payments)	Fortnightly 1 Feb - 28 Nov (22 Payments)	Monthly due 15th each month: Feb-Dec (11 Payments)	Quarterly 24 Feb, 24 May, 24 Aug, 24 Nov
1	$3,175	$73.84	$144.32	$288.64	$793.75
2	$3,890	$90.47	$176.82	$353.64	$972.50
3	$4,605	$107.09	$209.32	$418.64	$1,151.25
4	$5,320	$123.72	$241.82	$483.64	$1,330.00

2027 Additional Charges

For 2027, these charges will be issued at the beginning of the school year to allow families sufficient time to understand and plan for the total cost of these activities. Additional student charges will be added when calculating the Direct Debit amounts.

Swimming (per student) – Years 3 & 4 (only)	$80
Camp Fees Year 4 (Extended day)	$190
Camp Fees Year 5 (Overnight)	$350
Year 6 End of Year celebrations (Graduation & Big Day Out)	$60
Sacramental Levy (Years 3, 4 & 6 only – per student)	$50

Swimming Levy: $80 per student

Students Year 3 & 4 will participate in the 2027 Swimming Program designed to build students' confidence in the water, develop core swimming techniques, and teach vital water-safety skills to support their safety in and around aquatic environments. It also contributes to their overall physical development, resilience and wellbeing. This Program is partially funded by government grants.

Sacrament Levy: $50 per student

The Sacrament Levy applies to students in Year 3 (Reconciliation), Year 4 (First Communion) and Year 6 (Confirmation) and supports the costs of program resources, retreat activities and parish celebrations that contribute to students' spiritual development.

Camp Levy:

Over the past few years, the cost of school camps has continued to rise significantly due to increasing provider and venue costs, including transport, accommodation and program facilitation, as well as additional staffing costs associated with camp allowances and time-in-lieu requirements. Alongside these financial considerations, increasing Child Safety, supervision and risk management requirements have placed greater responsibilities and demands on schools when planning and facilitating overnight camp experiences. We have also observed a growing number of families choosing not to participate in school camps for a variety of personal reasons, prompting us to reflect on how we can provide meaningful, inclusive and accessible experiences for all students.

After careful consideration of these factors, we have made the decision to revise our school camp program from 2027 onwards. Our revised program will consist of an extended-day camp experience as an introduction to camping, followed by an overnight camp experience as students progress through their primary school years.

We remain committed to providing students with opportunities to develop independence, resilience and confidence through experiences beyond the school. These changes will allow us to maintain the educational and social benefits of our camp program while ensuring experiences remain safe, sustainable, affordable and accessible to our school community.

Year 4 Kinglake Day Camp: $190 per student

Extended-day outdoor education experience
Includes transport, meals and supervised activities

Year 5 Camp Campaspe Downs: $350 per student

One-night camp experience
Includes transport, accommodation, meals and supervised activities

Year 6 End of Year Levy: $60 per student

This levy will cover the costs associated with our Year 6 end of year celebrations including Graduation and the Big Day Out, traditionally held at Fun Fields.

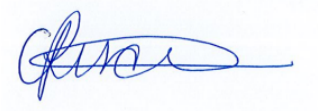
Pastoral care and financial support

We know that family budgets are under real pressure, and we never make fee decisions lightly. While our fees will naturally need to reflect normal cost-of-living movements over time, making these adjustments ensures a stable, dependable operational foundation for our school. Most importantly, it ensures our focus remains on delivering the personal care, quality teaching and attention your child deserves.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the 2027 fee structure please do not hesitate to contact me. We will continue to offer fee relief and support for families holding a Health Care Card, as well as for any family whose financial circumstances have changed.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, trust and shared commitment to our school community.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Pitcher
Principal