CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

2027 School Fee Changes: Information for Families

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong (CEDoW), our core mission is to provide an accessible, Christ-centred education where every student is known, supported, and empowered to flourish. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in our schools and the vital role your family plays in our community.

We are writing to share details regarding the new school fee schedule for 2027. We understand that many households are navigating significant cost-of-living pressures, and we want to be open about why our fee structures are evolving and what this means for your family.

Why are fees being updated for 2027?

Catholic schools operate through a partnership between government funding and family contributions:

- **Rising educational delivery costs:** The cost of specialised learning resources, curriculum requirements, modern technology, utilities, and maintaining safe, contemporary school facilities continues to rise faster than annual government indexation.
- **Government funding models:** Federal and State funding formulas account for the school community's capacity to contribute. As funding allocations adjust, our fee structure must adapt to ensure our schools remain financially sustainable.
- **Investing in students:** Every dollar received directly supports quality classroom teaching, pastoral care, and diverse learning opportunities for our students.

What will this mean for your family?

From 2027, we are moving to a per student rate for the Tuition and Building levy with sibling discounts. Depending on the number of students in each family, the impact will vary:

- **Variable impact:** Some families will see a slight decrease in their combined tuition and building levy, while others will see an increase.
- **Total cost overview:** Your overall account consists of Diocesan Tuition and Building Levies, alongside local, school-based activity charges (such as camps, resource, technology, and subject levies).
- **Comparison guide:** The accompanying infographic illustrates fee adjustments across different family circumstances. It provides a weekly equivalent based on 40 school weeks for easy comparison, noting CEDoW also offers flexible payment plans spread across the calendar year.

Schools will provide the final 2027 fee schedule on their school's website before the end of term four.

Our pastoral commitment and family support

A foundational principle of CEDoW is that no child will be denied a Catholic education due to genuine financial hardship.

If you have concerns about your ability to meet school fees or are experiencing financial difficulty, support is readily available:

- **Flexible payment options:** Instalment schedules can be structured weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly. If you are unable to commit to a regular instalment payment, other options are available by negotiation.
- **Confidential fee concessions:** Concessions and hardship support are available for eligible families by application.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, commitment, and contribution to Catholic education across our Diocese. Together, we look forward to supporting your children as they grow in faith, learning, and well-being.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Testa
Director – Finance, Facilities & Planning
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