

14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Planning for Our Future: Introducing Tiered Family Fees

At St. Joseph's School, our primary focus is for every child to flourish. To continue providing the high-quality education and supportive environment your children deserve, we must maintain a strong financial foundation capable of adapting to increasing costs across many areas of our school operations, as well as a changing broader education sector funding environment.

Careful cost management and how we set school fees are central to meeting these challenges. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) has analysed other Catholic school systems, sought information from over 50 of our schools, and gathered input from economic experts assessing our current fee model - where families pay the same flat tuition fee no matter how many children they have enrolled - against alternatives.

With a tiered family fee model, the total fee a family pays is adjusted according to how many children they have enrolled at the school.

Transitioning to tiered family fees has the following benefits:

- **Fairness** – It ensures that school fees are distributed more equitably across families, with each child's enrolment contributing to the resources and opportunities they receive.
- **Sustainability** – It allows the school to continue meeting rising costs and to invest in high-quality programs, staffing, and facilities for all students.
- **Consistency** – It is in line with the common practice across most Catholic schools, which helps provide clarity and transparency for families. This model is proven and currently already used by many MACS schools.

What a tiered family fee means for families at our school

Our school will be moving to tiered family fees beginning in the 2026 school year.

This will mean that your family will pay more depending on the number of children you have enrolled, but the increase of the adjustment for family size is designed to be manageable.

The tiered family fee structure for the 2026 school year will be:

Family Size Family Fee

1 Child	\$1667 per family	2 Children	\$1697 per family
3 Children	\$1737 per family	4 Children	\$1737 per family

Student Levy Charge \$875 per child (same as 2025)

Capital Levy Charge \$260

Please Note: Year 3/4 and 5/6 Camp is an additional charge. This will be added to the Annual total of fees & levies.

Our commitment to supporting you

A decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an excellent education experience. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

We are committed to supporting you through this transition. Please be assured that all existing arrangements and discounts for families holding valid cards (including Health Care Card) will continue and we will work compassionately with any family experiencing financial difficulty.

We are here to answer any questions you may have, and I warmly invite you to contact me directly to discuss your family's specific circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Monica O'Shannassy
Principal