



St. Patrick's School

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Tiered Family Fee, Capital Fee and Student Levies

5th November, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Planning for Our Future: Introducing Tiered Family Fees

At St. Patrick's School our primary focus is for every child to flourish. To continue delivering the high-quality education and nurturing 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.

From the start of the 2026 school year, fees will be adjusted based on the number of children enrolled. While this may result in a modest increase for some families, the structure is designed to remain manageable for all families.

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

Family Size	Family Fee (Tuition)
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1 Child	\$2,860 per family
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2 Children	\$2,970 per family
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3+ Children	\$3,020 per family
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Capital Fee

In 2025, St Patrick's School introduced an **Annual Capital Fee** per family to assist with the repayment of our current school building loans. In consultation with the **School Advisory Council (SAC)** the Capital Fee has been set at **\$350 per family** for 2026. This annual charge will appear on the **Term 1 invoice**.

The Capital Fee is reviewed each year by the SAC, taking into account factors such as projected student enrolments and the school's overall financial outlook.

The completion of our most recent building project in 2022 has provided the additional space needed to support St Patrick's continued growth and the significant increase in enrolments over the past three years. In 2026, the school will maintain a strong enrolment of more than 460 students across 21 classes from Prep to Year 6 — an increase from 386 students in 2022.

This building project had a total cost of **\$3.4 million**, with **half funded by the government** and the remaining half financed through a **15-year, interest-free loan** from the **Catholic Development Fund (CDF)**. To maintain the CDF's interest subsidy, repayments must be made on time. The Capital Fee contributes directly to these repayments, in line with the guidelines set by the **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**.

Individual Student Levies and Charges for 2026 are as follows:

Class	Items	Cost
Prep	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming Program Book levy	\$475 \$120 \$65 \$35 \$695
Yr 1	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming Program ChromeBook Levy Book levy	\$475 \$120 \$65 \$65 \$20 \$745
Yr 2	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming Program ChromeBook Levy Book Levy Sacramental Program	\$475 \$120 \$65 \$65 \$35 \$35 \$795
Yr 3	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming Program ChromeBook Levy Book Levy Sacramental Program	\$475 \$120 \$65 \$65 \$45 \$45 \$815
Yr 4	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming/Beach Program ChromeBook Levy Book Levy Camp – 3 days	\$475 \$120 \$65 \$65 \$25 \$430 \$1,180
Yr 5	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming/Beach Program ChromeBook Levy Book Levy Camp – 3 days	\$475 \$120 \$65 \$65 \$25 \$430 \$1,180
Yr 6	General Curriculum Excursions/Incursions Swimming/Beach Program ChromeBook Levy Book Levy Graduation Expenses Confirmation/Retreat Day Camp – 4 days	\$475 \$85 \$65 \$65 \$15 \$65 \$60 \$980 \$1,810

Payment Terms

All **student levies** (including camp fees) and the **Capital Fee** are to be paid by the end of Term 1.

The tiered family fee must be **paid in full by the end of Term 3**.

If a family is **leaving the school**, any applicable rebates will be calculated **to the end of the next school term**. Please note that fees are charged per full term, and partial term adjustments are not available.

Families **enrolling after the school year has commenced** are required to pay a **\$50 administration fee**, along with any **student levies, prior to commencing** at St Patrick's School. Fees will be **charged for the full term** of commencement, and **no pro-rata adjustments** will apply.

Payment Options

St Patrick's School accepts payment by Credit Card, EFTPOS or Cash.

We also welcome online payments using the following details:

BSB: 083 347 Account Number: 681843694 Account Name: St Patrick's School

Please ensure your family name or account number is included in the reference field to allow accurate allocation of your payment.

Families may also choose to set up a direct debit plan for school fees and levies. Please contact the school office for the necessary paperwork.

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 aware 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,



Pat Berlingeri
Principal
St. Patrick's School