



October, 2023

SACRED HEART FEES AND LEVIES – 2024

Dear Families,

We are writing to inform you, in consultation with the School Business Manager and School Advisory Board, our school fees and levies will be increasing for the upcoming year, 2024. Please note, this aligns with MACS financial advice and guidelines for all Catholic schools.

Sacred Heart operates in a highly competitive educational landscape and within an environment where the running costs, basic utilities, contracts, and ongoing maintenance demands are escalating rapidly. These costs continue to surpass the growth of the general Consumer Price Index (CPI). This includes replacement teacher rates, buses, excursions, labour/trades, materials, stationery, subscriptions, and other essential expenditures.

It is crucial to understand that the grants provided by both Commonwealth and State Governments do not fully cover the total cost of running Catholic schools. Each year, we heavily rely on a local contribution from parents/caregivers to help offset the education expenses for each student. This is achieved through the setting and collection of school fees and levies.

Regrettably, school expenses persistently increase, including our Capacity to Contribute (CtC), which serves as the metric employed by the Commonwealth Government to ascertain the expected financial contributions from families toward their child's education.

The modest increase in fees and levies has been carefully calculated to bridge the gap between the actual and anticipated CtC. This adjustment is essential to ensure that we can sustain the delivery of high-quality programs and educational experiences, enriching the lives of our students.

	Family Fee	Capital	Curriculum	Camp	I.T
Family Fee - 1 Child	\$2,975	\$850			
Family Fee - 2 Children	\$3,500	\$850			
Family Fee - 3+ Children	\$4,025	\$850			
Prep			\$585		\$55
Year 1			\$520		\$80
Year 2			\$520		\$80
Year 3			\$520	\$350	\$80
Year 4			\$520	\$500	\$80
Year 5			\$525	\$525	\$155
Year 6			\$525	\$850	\$155

The following additional levies* will be issued separately:

- Swimming program in Year 1 to Year 6 \$t.b.c based on State grant allocation
- TriSkills program in Prep to Year 2 \$55
- Hoop Time program in Years 3 to 6 \$35
- Public Speaking in Years 5 & 6 \$55
- Camp Levy in Years 3 to 6 Refer to above schedule (*Some camps may be subsidised further with fundraising activities and possible state funding tbc*)

**Please note the above additional program costs are indicative and may change in 2024*

CEMEA 2022

In addition, during the year, the Catholic Education Multi Enterprise Agreement 2022 was ratified and affects the salaries and entitlements of staff working in catholic schools.

One of the most notable inclusions to the new EBA is the introduction of time in-lieu for our teaching staff. This new provision means that schools now bear the additional costs associated or must make alternate arrangements (e.g. school closure days) with work-related commitments traditionally outside the standard 38-hour workweek. Examples of such commitments include staff attendance at camps, parent information evenings, and parent-teacher interviews.

Fee Statements

All families will receive their school fee account at the beginning of Term 1. School fee accounts are billed for the full year on the first statement. Follow up statements are mailed at the beginning of Term 2, 3 & 4 showing the current balance. Additional charges for non-tuition activities will be billed prior to commencement of activity. Parents will be notified via Operoo.

We ask each family to complete the Operoo eForm, indicating your intent to pay and preferred method of payment, prior to the end of 2023. Several payment options, listed over, are available to suit your family situation. Please ensure you check all instructions and attachments carefully.

In line with the MACS Concessional Fee Policy, discounted fees are available for families experiencing financial difficulty (including those on an eligible HCC). Any family who is experiencing difficulties in meeting their financial commitments, or wishing to discuss alternate fee payment arrangements for 2024, is asked to arrange an appointment with the principal.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to Catholic Education and the financial responsibilities that are associated with this choice. Please remember that your child's enrolment is not dependent on school fees and we will always make our great school affordable for your family.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Collis', written over a light blue grid background.

Simon Collis
Principal

2024 SCHOOL FEE PAYMENT OPTIONS

Sacred Heart offers several payment options to help families meet their school fee obligations

Option 1	Full Fee Payment
Payment can be made in full by <u>Friday 22nd March</u>	

Option 2	Payment by Quarterly Instalments
Instalments can be paid via EFTPOS or credit card at the school office any time between 8.45am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday on school days. You can also phone through credit card payments if preferred.	
Instalment One	Friday 8 th March
Instalment Two	Friday 24 th May
Instalment Three	Friday 9 th August
Instalment Four	Friday 25 th October

Option 3	Direct Debit	
Families are welcome to set up a recurring payment via their own banking facility. Please follow the guideline below to calculate your payment. Alternatively, Direct debit facilities can be set up for families to pay in weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments via our banking institution, Catholic Development Fund. Families are required to complete the direct debit form (attachment on eForm) to nominate a bank account and return it to the school by the end of the 2023 school year. If this option is preferred, payments for the 2024 school fees will begin being deducted from <u>Friday 1st March 2024</u> and continue for 8 months on the 1 st of the month.		
Direct Debit Option	Number of Payments	Cost
Weekly	34	Divide total fees and levies by 34
Fortnightly	17	Divide total fees and levies by 17
Monthly	8	Divide total fees and levies by 8

HEALTH CARE CARD HOLDERS

The CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund) is provided by the Victorian Government for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. The CSEF form is attached to the Operoo eForm and also available at the office.

Families holding an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) are eligible to apply for this allowance and are strongly encouraged to do so. \$150 per year will be paid to schools for eligible students. This amount will be deducted from your child's Excursion or Camp Levy as the payment comes through.