

ST CARLO'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – SCHOOL FEES 2026



Monday October 27, 2025.

Dear Parents,

St Carlo Borromeo School is committed to keeping school fees as affordable as possible for all families, however, we are not exempt from the significant increases to costs associated with resources, insurance, transport, equipment and wage rises. 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.

Following this analysis, MACS requires primary schools to adopt a tiered family fee structure to address upcoming financial challenges, including the retirement of Choice and Affordability Funding in 2030, probable Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) increases and rising operational costs such as insurance, building repairs and utilities.

After consultation with the School Advisory Council, 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.

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.

Why do we charge school fees?

Most of our school funding comes from the Commonwealth Government, with some funding from the State Government. A student in a Government Primary School is funded at a significantly higher rate than a student in a Catholic School. School fees are charged in Catholic Schools to make up the shortfall in Government funding to enable us to cover our operational expenses.

- The State and Federal Government grants account for approximately 80% of total funding.
- School Fees and levies (approximately 20% of total funding) make up this shortfall.

2026 SCHOOL FEES are tiered as follows (per family):

- 1 Child: \$2,430
- 2 Children: \$2,730
- 3+ Children: \$2,940

This amount is payable in full at the beginning of the year OR in three instalments due at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3 (1 Child: \$810 each; 2 Children: \$910 each; 3+ Children: \$980 each).



St Carlo Borromeo Primary School

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NON-REFUNDABLE CAPITAL/MAINTENANCE FEE \$250 (per Family) and is due at the commencement of the school year. This fee contributes towards the improvement and maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

STUDENT LEVY PER CHILD (Due at the commencement of the school year) is **\$550**

The student levy covers all your children's books and stationery requirements. It also covers the purchase of materials for different subject areas such as English, Maths, Inquiry, Library, Art, STEM, Computers and Physical Education etc.

EXCURSION LEVY PER CHILD (Due at the commencement of the school year) is **\$200**

This will cover the cost of incursions and excursions. This will not be refundable should your child be away on the day of the excursion. Transport costs for the Year Six interschool sports are not included in the excursion levy. Children will be required to pay for these separately as the need arises.

SCHOOL CAMP (These prices are approximates at this time and may be subject to minor changes) Camp Levy includes a \$150 non-refundable deposit.

- Year Four: \$240
- Year Five: \$600
- Year Six: \$600

Please note - SCHOOL FEES ARE TO BE FINALISED BY NO LATER THAN THE END OF TERM THREE.

CONCESSIONAL SCHOOL FEE POLICY

Concessional school fees are available to families which meet one of the eligibility criteria outlined in the MACS Concessional School Fee Policy which can be accessed on our website. If you consider yourself to be eligible, please contact the school to discuss and apply. Health Care Card Holders are encouraged to apply.

FEE INFORMATION

- Accounts are generally emailed at the beginning of each month and prompt payment of the term fee is required.
- Method of payment can be made by credit card, EFTPOS/EFT or direct debit.
- **Direct debit is the preferred payment method.**
- **Please note all methods of school fee payments, are required to be paid in full by the final due date.**
- Parents are liable for any bank charges if a direct debit is dishonoured.
- Where non-payment of fees occurs, parents will be asked to attend an interview with the Principal to discuss the issue. Any unpaid fees may be directed to our Fees Collection Agency for recovery.
- The fee structure is reviewed and set annually.

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.

It is essential that school fees and levies are paid on time to enable the school to meet its financial obligations. We are committed to providing quality Catholic Education to all Catholic families in our Parish and if at any stage you are finding it difficult to pay school fees, I ask that you contact me immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Gleeson

Kevin Gleeson
Principal