

Thursday 22 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introducing Tiered Family Fees in 2027

At St John's Primary School, we are committed to helping every child flourish by fostering intellectual curiosity, strengthening character, and supporting wellbeing within a nurturing Catholic community.

In planning for 2027, our focus has been to ensure we can continue to provide the high-quality learning opportunities, care and support that families value, while keeping costs as affordable as possible.

As part of this commitment, St John's will be transitioning from our traditional flat fee to a tiered family fee structure in 2027.

Why we are moving to tiered family fees

Under a flat fee model, a family pays one set tuition fee regardless of whether they have one child or four children enrolled. Under our new tiered model, fees are set with an upfront fee for the first child and smaller, stepped amounts for additional siblings.

This model is already used successfully across Catholic secondary colleges and over 60% of Catholic primary schools. Transitioning now addresses three practical realities:

- **Fairness for all families:** Under a flat fee, families with one child contribute the exact same amount as larger families, even though every child uses classrooms, teachers, specialists, and resources equally. A tiered structure shares costs more fairly across the whole community, while still providing significant discounts for siblings.
- **Matching how our school is funded:** Commonwealth and state grants are calculated strictly on a per-child basis. Government funding formulas assume our school collects a fee contribution for each enrolled student. Under a flat family fee, our school foregoes critical operating revenue that the government expects us to receive. A tiered fee closes this gap.
- **Protecting our classrooms:** A flat fee model establishes a predictable, dependable financial baseline to retain great teachers, maintain supportive class sizes, and keep classroom resources up to date.

2027 Tiered Fee Schedule

Beginning in the 2027 school year, our annual tuition fee structure will be:

Enrolled children at St John's PS	Total annual family tuition fee	Total annual family tuition fee and levies (<i>Building, Student and Swimming levies. Camp levy is additional</i>)
1 child	\$2,505	\$3,540
2 children	\$2,630	\$4,400
3 children	\$2,760	\$5,265
4 children	\$2,895	\$6,135

Note: In the table above, Column 2 displays the tiered family tuition fee, while Column 3 reflects the total fee, which includes the tiered family tuition fee, the \$300 family building levy, \$605 student levy per child, and the \$130 swimming levy per child. For a complete fee breakdown, please refer to the table below.

2027 Fee Structure		
Fee type	Basis of charge	Amount
Building levy	Per family	\$300
Student levy	Per student	\$605
Swimming levy	Per student	130
<i>ESTIMATED CAMP COSTS - to be confirmed in 2027</i>		
<i>Camp fee Year 3</i>	<i>Per student</i>	<i>\$180</i>
<i>Camp fee Year 4</i>	<i>Per student</i>	<i>\$420</i>
<i>Camp fee Years 5/6</i>	<i>Per student</i>	<i>\$690</i>

We know that family budgets are under real pressure, and we never make fee decisions lightly. While our fees will naturally need to reflect normal cost-of-living movements over time, taking these adjustments ensures a stable, dependable operational foundation for our school. Most importantly, it ensures our classrooms remain focused on delivering the personal care, quality teaching, and attention your child deserves.

Pastoral care and financial support

In keeping with our Catholic ethos, financial hardship should never be a barrier to an education at St John's Primary School. We continue to offer confidential fee relief and support for families holding a Health Care Card, as well as for any family whose financial circumstances have changed.

Payment options

Fees may be paid at the commencement of the year, on each instalment, monthly or an arranged time agreeable by the Principal. We also offer a payment plan option – a schedule of payments will be included with your school fees. Families are welcome to set up direct payments that best suit their finances.

Termly Instalment Payment

Enrolled Children	Annual Total	Per Term Instalment
1 child tuition fee – per term instalment	\$2,505	\$626.25
2 children tuition fee – per term instalment	\$2,630	\$657.50
3 children tuition fee – per term instalment	\$2,760	\$690
4 children tuition fee – per term instalment	\$2,895	\$723.75

Building Levy for 2027 is \$300 and is payable in four instalments of \$75.

Student Levies for 2027 are \$605 per child and are paid once per year, at the commencement of the year in Term 1.

INCLUDES:

- All work books and resources such as pencils, pens etc
- Excursions / Incursions
- Special events such as: Prep Breakfast, 1/2 Afternoon Tea, 3/4 experience, Sacramental levies, Interschool Sports, Graduation and End of Year events

Camp Levy is only applicable to the year levels attending camp in 2027. Please note there has been a cost increase for next year, and is still subject to change due to EBA negotiations and supplier costs. We will confirm this cost as soon as we can.

The payment for camp needs to be made prior to your child attending camp and can also be made across the year in instalments. Please contact the office to discuss options for this. The camp levy for 2027 is \$690 for students in year 5/6; Year 3 students day camp \$180 and Year 4 overnight camp \$420.

Due Dates

	Amount	Due Date
School Fee & Building Levy – 1 st instalment	Your child/ren's per term instalment plus \$75 building levy	Friday 26 February 2027
Student Levy	\$605 per child	Friday 26 February 2027
Camp Levy (Year 5/6)	TBC: \$690	Thursday 25 March 2027
School Fee & Building Levy – 2 nd instalment	Your child/ren per term instalment plus \$75 building levy	Friday 7 May 2027
Swimming Levy	\$130 per child	Friday 25 June 2027
School Fee & Building Levy – 3 rd instalment	Your child/ren per term instalment plus \$75 building levy	Friday 6 August 2027
Camp Levy (Year 3 day camp)	TBC: \$180	Friday 17 September 2027
Camp Levy (Year 4 overnight camp)	TBC: \$420	Friday 17 September 2027
School Fee & Building Levy – 4 th instalment	Your child/ren per term instalment plus \$75 building levy	Friday 29 October 2027

Regular Repayments

We encourage making smaller, regular repayments to help repay your balance. This can be done by weekly/fortnightly/monthly payments via your own banking app; automatic direct debit payments from our bank or utilising your Centrelink benefits via Centrepay – please contact us to complete a form.

Any family holding a valid government concession card (Health Care Card or Pension Card) can access the Concessional Fee arrangements, CSEF rebates and School Saving Bonus.

Please Note: Concessional Fee arrangements MUST be set up prior to the commencement of the 2027 school year

The CSEF rebate is \$400 to be used for CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS. A form must be completed and a valid concession card must be shown to the school for families to receive this discount / rebate. Please contact the school office for more information.

For all questions regarding fee and levy payments, please contact Melinda at the school office:
accounts@sjfootscray.catholic.edu.au.

If you have questions about the new fee structure or wish to discuss support options in complete confidence, please contact me directly: principal@sjfootscray.catholic.edu.au

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, trust, and shared commitment to our school community.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Conroy
Principal

Frequently asked questions

School fees

1. Why are the school fees changing?

Catholic schools are funded through a combination of government funding and parent fees.

As government funding does not meet the full cost of providing Catholic education, fees remain an important part of funding teaching, learning, student wellbeing and the day-to-day life of our school.

For 2027, MACS has set fee guidelines in response to significant cost pressures, including higher operating costs and the expected cost of salary and conditions improvements under the next enterprise agreement (EBA).

We know any fee increase affects family budgets, which is why we are committed to keeping fees as affordable as possible.

2. What support is available for my family?

As a Catholic school, we are committed to ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent a family from participating fully in our school community. We recognise that circumstances can change, sometimes unexpectedly.

Please contact the Principal, Emily Conroy, for a private and confidential conversation about your circumstances.

Concessional fees and other fee-support arrangements may be available, including for eligible Health Care Card holders. We will work with families respectfully and sensitively to understand what support may be available.

Tiered family fee structure

3. What is a tiered family-fee structure?

Catholic schools receive government funding on a per-student basis. The funding model assumes that a school will also receive a parent contribution for each enrolled child.

Under a flat family-fee model, the same tuition amount is charged whether a family has one child or several children at the school. This can create a gap between the funding a school needs for each student and the fee income it receives.

Moving to a tiered structure brings fee arrangements closer to the way school funding is calculated, while continuing to recognise the additional cost for larger families through lower fees for younger siblings.

4. Why is the school moving to tiered family fees?

Many MACS primary schools already use a tiered family-fee structure. In 2027, the remaining primary schools will move from a flat family fee to a tiered structure.

Under a tiered structure, fees are set for the first child, with lower fees for each additional sibling. At our school, this means:

Enrolled children at St John's PS	Total annual family tuition fee	Total annual family tuition fee and levies (<i>Building, Student and Swimming levies. Camp levy is additional</i>)
1 child	\$2,505	\$3,540
2 children	\$2,630	\$4,400
3 children	\$2,760	\$5,265
4 children	\$2,895	\$6,135

We know that financial circumstances can change, and support is available for families who may be finding fees difficult. Eligible families can continue to access concessional-fee arrangements

If you would like to discuss your personal circumstances, please reach out to the school directly.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

5. Who is MACS?

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) is responsible for almost 300 Catholic primary and secondary schools, educating more than 120,000 students across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

As one of the fastest-growing education systems in Victoria, MACS supports schools to provide high-quality learning, strong wellbeing support and faith formation for the growing number of families choosing Catholic education each year.

6. What is its role in our school?

The role of MACS is to oversee a system of almost 300 schools educating nearly 120,000 students, ensuring Catholic education remains strong, sustainable and accessible for generations to come.

When MACS was established, it reflected the reality that Catholic education had grown beyond what individual schools could reasonably manage alone.

Today's schools operate in an increasingly complex environment, requiring expertise in governance, educational improvement, workforce planning, child safety, finance, infrastructure and compliance.

A coordinated system enables schools to focus on what matters most: delivering an outstanding education centred on faith and the flourishing of every student.

7. What are the benefits of being part of MACS?

The strength of being part of MACS is that schools retain their local identity and leadership, while drawing on the support, resources and shared responsibility of a much larger Catholic education community.

Over the past two years, MACS has implemented its Vision for Instruction and Vision for Engagement strategies to strengthen learning and wellbeing outcomes across the system. These reforms are helping schools deliver the high-quality educational experience that families increasingly expect and value.

Our recent NAPLAN results provide further evidence that our focus on evidence-based teaching and student engagement is making a difference.

We are proud that more families are choosing Catholic education and recognise the value our schools provide to students and their communities.