Our Lady of the Assumption
Primary School Cheltenham

Friday 20 November 2026

Planning for 2027: School Operations and Fees

Dear Parents and Carers,

In planning for 2027, we have worked closely with MACS, our School Business Manager and School Advisory Council to respond carefully and responsibly to a changing financial landscape, shaped largely by the new staffing EBA and increasing operational costs.

Throughout this process, our priority has remained clear: to preserve the high quality learning opportunities, strong staffing, care and support that our students and families value at OLA, while keeping costs to families as low as reasonably possible.

Our annual tuition fees for 2027 will be set at the following:

School Fees 2027

Tiered Family Fee

Family Size	Tiered Family Fee
1 Child	$2,760 per family
2 Children	$2,978 per family
3 Children	$3,177 per family

+ Capital Fee

Capital Levy	$1,071 per family

+ Individual Student Levies and Charges for 2026:

Class	Items		Cost
Prep	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Swimming Technology Levy	$561 $312 $54 $85	**$1,012**
Yr 1	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Swimming Technology Levy	$561 $312 $128 $85	**$1,086**
Yr 2	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Swimming Technology Levy	$561 $312 $128 $85	**$1,086**
Yr 3	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Swimming Technology Levy	$645 $312 $128 $85	**$1,170**

Class	Items		Cost
Yr 4	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Swimming Technology Levy Camp Experience	$645 $312 $128 $85 $50	**$1,220**
Yr 5	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Technology Levy Camp	$645 $312 $85 $640	**$1,682**
Yr 6	Curriculum Levy Excursion/ Incursion Technology Levy Camp *Please note that Yr 6 Big Day Out & Yr 6 Graduation are included above*	$762 $423 $85 $640	**$1,910**

**Please note Camp program costs are indicative and may slightly change in 2027.*

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, these adjustments ensure a stable, dependable operational foundation for our school. Most importantly, it ensures our classrooms remain focussed on delivering the personal care, quality teaching, and attention your child deserves.

Grade 5/6 School Camp

Please note, as included in the table above, that changes to staffing arrangements and conditions for overnight camps, under the recently negotiated Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA), will result in an increase of approximately $130/student for 2027 camps.

We have worked to keep the impact of these changes as manageable as possible while continuing to provide the high quality camp experiences that are such an important part of school life at OLA. As a school community, we remain committed to ensuring that every child can participate, and families who may experience difficulty with camp costs are warmly encouraged to speak with me confidentially.

OLA School Building Fund Donation - Voluntary

Another way to assist our school is for families to make a donation directly to the Our Lady of the Assumption School Building Fund. Any donation over $2 to the School Building Fund is tax deductible. Payments can be made by direct deposit to the fund's bank account as follows:

Account Name: Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund

BSB: 083-347

Account: 025471925

(Please ensure you include reference no: 110031932 and surname in the details, e.g. 110031932SMITH).

The School will issue a receipt for taxation purposes. Our Lady of the Assumption School Building Fund is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) & Australian Charity and Non-profit Commission (ACNC) as a registered deductible gift fund. The fund is open for donations from the school community, general public and local businesses for voluntary contribution. The main purpose of the fund (or use of the fund) is to protect the integrity of the school buildings and provide for a greater learning environment for current and future students. As contributions are voluntary, they are tax deductible for donors.

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.

As always 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.

Thank you in advance for your understanding of the change to our fee structure - a change that will ensure OLA's continuing financial sustainability into the future.

Finally, we appreciate there has been considerable discussion within our community about class structures and arrangements for 2027. To help answer some of the most common questions, please find attached an FAQ for your reference.

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

Kind regards,



Richard Jacques
Principal, OLA Cheltenham

Payment terms

All student levies (including camp fees) and the Capital Levy 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.

Payment Option

Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School accepts payments by Credit Card, EFTPOS, BPAY or Cash. We also welcome online payments using the following details

Account Name: Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund / OLA
BSB: 083-347 Account: 655893399

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, please see attached for the necessary paperwork.

2027 School Fee Payment Plan Options

OLA offers several payment options to help families meet their school fee obligations.

Option 1: Full fee Payment
Payments can be made in full by the end of **Term 1 Thursday 25th March 2027**

Option 2: Payment by Quarterly Instalments	
Instalments can be via cash, EFTPOS, or credit card at the school office anytime between 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday on school days. Please note all fees must be **paid in full by Friday 29th October 2027.**	
Instalment One	**Friday 19th February 2027**
Instalment Two	**Friday 7th May 2027**
Instalment Three	**Friday 6th August 2027**
Instalment Four	**Friday 29th October 2027**

Option 3: Direct debit		
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 (attached to this letter) to nominate a bank account and return it to the school by the end of 2026 school year. **Payments for the school year will begin to be deducted from Friday 19th February 2027.**		
Direct debit option	**Number of payments**	**Cost**
Weekly	**30**	**Divide total fees and levies by 30**
Instalment Three	**15**	**Divide total fees and levies by 15**
Instalment Four	**9**	**Divide total fees and levies by 9**

MACS 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. It is important to note that we receive 80% of our funding through the federal government and this funding is not increasing until it is reviewed in 2029, which means there is a short fall that has resulted in funding cuts for Victorian Catholic schools.

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. To reduce the impact on families we have also spent much time working out ways we can save money operationally to ensure we keep the fee increase to a minimum, such as not adding an extra classroom in 2027, reducing staff time out of the classroom, resource management and more economical contracts sourced, plus an additional thirty students starting at OLA next year.

2. **What support is available for my family?**

As a Catholic school, we continue to be 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 **Richard Jacques** 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.

Class size and structures and student learning

3. **Is our school changing class structures?**

Grade 3-6 our school class structures will remain as they are for 2027, for example, multilevel classes. For Prep-Grade 2 our classes will be straight Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 classes. This sees a change from Grade 1/2 in 2026 to Grade 1 and Grade 2 in 2027.

4. **Why is the school increasing class sizes?**

MACS planning guidelines ask schools to work towards an average class size of around 25 students across the school. Moving towards this average helps us use staffing resources sustainably while maintaining the programs, support and teaching quality our students need. Extra Learning Support Officer support will continue to be provided in our larger classes.

5. **Will larger classes impact my child's learning or the attention they receive?**

Class sizes within this range are consistent with those used across Victorian education systems and are not expected to affect student learning and flourishing. Educational research consistently shows that class sizes within this range preserve student achievement and individual progress.

In our classrooms, what matters most is high quality teaching, purposeful lesson planning, and the connection our teachers build with every child.

This adjustment allows us to keep our tuition fees manageable while ensuring our classrooms remain well resourced environments where your child receives personal attention, care and encouragement to flourish.

Staffing changes

6. What staffing changes will be occurring in 2027?

Our staff are central to the life of OLA, and we recognise that changes to roles and responsibilities can affect people who have made a valued contribution to our community.

Throughout our planning, our goal has been to direct the school's resources to where they will make the greatest difference to your child's education e.g. Intervention programs if required or break out groups using all available staff.

For 2027, we have worked hard to maintain staffing arrangements broadly consistent with those in place during 2026. This has been made possible largely through our strong and sustained enrolment numbers (in 2027 OLA is growing by 30 children). There will naturally be some changes, with some staff considering alternative employment and opportunities, while others will return from leave in varying capacities.

We remain committed to valuing and supporting our educators. Our 2027 staffing arrangements will enable us to maintain well supported classes, invest in high quality teaching and continue the programs and support that help every student learn, grow and flourish, all while ensuring the school remains financially sustainable into the future.

Tiered family fee structure

7. 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.

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.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

8. 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.

9. 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.