



St. Bernard's

Catholic Primary School, East Coburg

26th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

2025 School Fees and Levies

I am writing to provide you details of changes in our school fees for 2025.

Any decision to adjust fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an education experience that supports every student to flourish. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

St Bernard's Primary School, too, is facing increasing costs in multiple areas of school operations, including WorkCover premiums, Child Safety compliance, risk management, teacher resources and professional learning, and higher central system costs.

Our fees at St Bernard's are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

School funding is complex, so I have included with this letter a simple school funding "explainer" which I hope will support your understanding of how government funds Catholic (and other non-government) schools and how fees support our school.

To ensure that we can continue to deliver a personalised, high-quality education that is responsive to the diverse interests and academic, social and emotional needs of our students, it is necessary to adjust our fees in 2025.

As a result, St Bernard's school fees for 2025 will be \$1,975. This is an increase of \$100 - or \$1.92 per week - on 2024 fees. The Levy will remain at \$535 for 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain committed to keeping fees as low and affordable as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. I am grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our school.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Doherty
Principal



St. Bernard's

Catholic Primary School, East Coburg

ST BERNARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FEE AND LEVY POLICY 2025

(reviewed annually)

FEE School fees are set as a family fee.

Payment in Full: A discount is offered if fees are paid in full by the 1st April in the year they are due.
Payment in Instalments: Fees are due within the first two weeks of Terms 1, 2 and 3.

LEVY School levies are set as a student fee.

Payment: Levies are to be paid in Term 4 for the following year.

These levies are very important to upgrading and running the school curriculum and programs. They cover Books, Religious Education, LOTE, Language, Physical Education, Library, Music, Mathematics, Art, Science, Computers and Excursions. Not all items will be distributed at the beginning of the school year; they may be distributed throughout the year as required.

Items to be brought from home - 2 boxes of tissues and an art smock.

2025 Fee:	\$1,975 (per family)	1st instalment \$658 (term one) 2nd instalment \$658 (term two) 3rd instalment \$659 (term three)
	OR	
	\$1,875 (per family)	(\$100 discount) if total paid by the 1st April 2025
2025 Levy:	\$535 (student)	1 student \$535 2 students \$1,070 3 students \$1,605

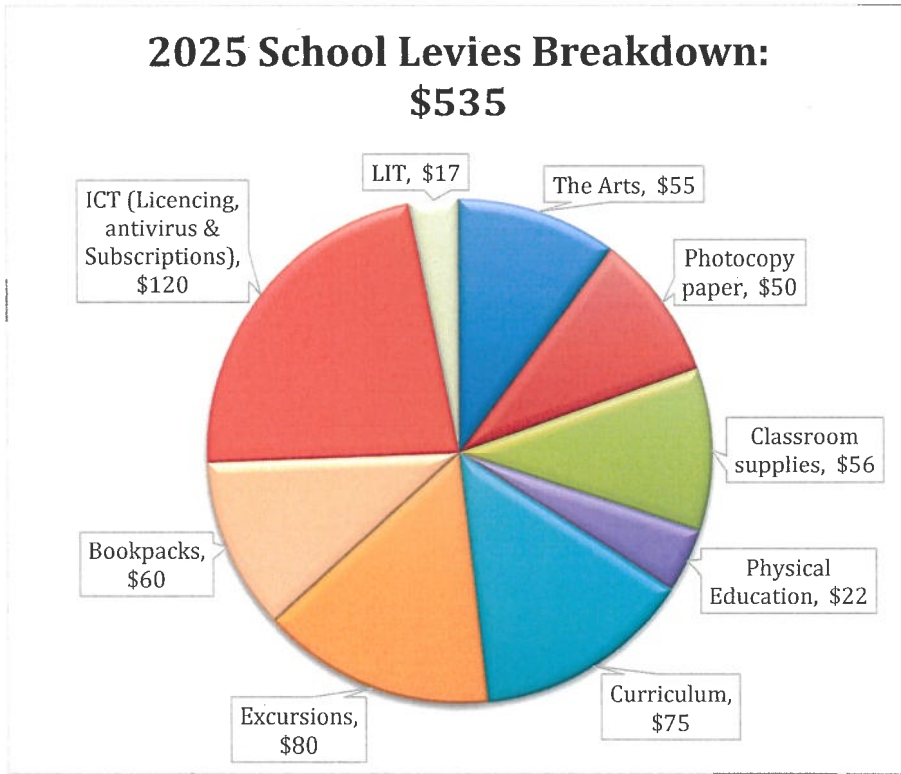
Fees and levies can be paid by cash, cheque or credit card at the office between the hours of 8:30am - 4:00pm or by using internet banking as follows:

NAB Account No: 483924506 BSB: 083 347 Reference: Family name

We are committed to ensuring that financial issues or constraints, will not exclude families from our school. Any family unable to pay the fees is required to make an appointment to see the Principal. Once a discussion has taken place and a course of action proposed, the appropriate forms will be completed. Once the paperwork is signed off by the Principal the arrangements as agreed will commence. Overdue or outstanding balances are followed up with letters and phone calls and a meeting will be organised to follow the above protocol. Overdue accounts will be forwarded to our Debt Collection Agency and legal costs will be passed on.

This fee policy follows the guidelines as recommended by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

2025 School Levies Breakdown: \$535

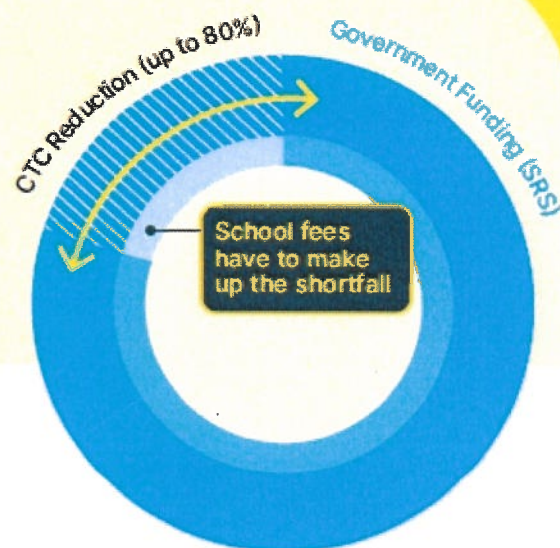


School Funding

Catholic schools (and other non-government schools) are funded through a combination of:

1. Commonwealth Government funding
2. State Government funding
3. Parent contributions in the form of tuition fees and charges.

This is how the pieces of the pie fit together.



Baseline funding (the SRS)

There is an agreed annual amount that government funds every school to meet its students' educational needs. This is called the **Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)**. Under this national agreement, the Australian and state governments together fund schools in line with the SRS.

The final SRS Base for 2024 was \$13,570 for each primary student, and \$17,053 for each secondary student.

In addition to this base amount, there are up to six loadings that can provide additional funding for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

To ensure that funding keeps up with changes in wages and other costs, the SRS base amount and loadings are indexed each year.

The Capacity to Contribute (CTC)

For Catholic schools, the SRS base amount is then **reduced** by the school community's CTC. This can be as much as an 80% reduction.

The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) for each school is determined by the taxable income of the families attending the school, as reported annually to the ATO.

Schools are currently expected to recover the CTC shortfall in SRS funding through school fees.

Importantly, none of this government funding can be used for buildings and infrastructure in Catholic schools. Our buildings and infrastructure are funded by capital grants from the Commonwealth and/or Victorian governments, and by parent contributions through fees, school cash reserves and capital levies.

Further information is available on the [School Resourcing Standard](#) through the Australian Government Department of Education.

