St Michael's Parish School
ASHBURTON

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# 2027 School Fees and Levies

Dear Parents and Caregivers

At St Michael's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a nurturing, vibrant and spiritual learning environment for every child, with a high-quality Catholic education in which they are known, supported and challenged to flourish. Central to this commitment is maintaining excellent teaching and learning, strong pastoral care and wellbeing, and the programs and resources that enrich our students' experience at school. Setting school fees is an important part of our annual planning, ensuring high-quality staffing and resources are provided and the proposal undergoes the ratification process with our School Advisory Council. This year all schools have worked partnership with the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (M.A.C.S.), ensuring that system budgetary requirements are met.

We remain very mindful of the financial commitments made by our families and the pressures that increased living costs continue to place on household budgets. For this reason, decisions regarding fees are made carefully and with a strong commitment to responsible financial stewardship.

**Planning responsibly for 2027**

As we plan for 2027, our school, like all Catholic schools, is facing a number of significant cost pressures. The most substantial of these relates to increasing employment costs associated with the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for staff across Catholic education. While the agreement is yet to be fully finalised, significant salary increases are anticipated over the coming years. St Michael's School strongly supports appropriate recognition and remuneration for all our staff, whose professionalism, care and commitment are fundamental to the education we provide. At the same time, the school continues to manage changes in government funding, together with broader increases in the costs of operating, maintaining and resourcing our school. In response, we have undertaken a careful review of our 2027 budget, staffing, programs and operational expenditure.

**2027 School Fees and Levies**

In consultation with the school's Finance Business Partner and our regional Senior Manager, I have sought to keep costs as modest as possible while ensuring we continue to provide quality learning experiences and resources for our students. The following list outlines most items covered by our school levies, providing transparency around how these essential funds

are allocated to support your child's learning, development and overall educational experience:

Sacramental Programs
Swimming
Excursions
Curriculum resources
Classroom materials
Specialist programs - Visual Arts, Performing Arts, S.T.E.M., Mandarin, Physical Education
Sports equipment
Library resources
School Camps (Years 5 and 6)
Public Speaking & Leadership program (Years 5 and 6)
I.T. equipment

The Capital Fee will continue to support the maintenance and improvement of our school facilities and learning environments and the Enhancement Fee assists with keeping our grounds tidy and that essential safety repairs are made as required.

We recognise that any increase in school fees can place additional pressure on families, and we do not make these decisions lightly. We believe the 2027 fee structure strikes an appropriate balance between keeping costs as manageable as possible for families and ensuring St Michael's maintains a stable and sustainable financial position. Most importantly, it enables us to keep our focus where it belongs: providing your child with excellent teaching, individual care and support within a welcoming Catholic school community.

**2027 Family School Fees**

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|---|---|
| 1 child | - $3675.00 |
| 2 children | - $4925.00 |
| 3+ children | - $5425.00 |

**Capital Fee per family** = $475
**Enhancement / Maintenance Fee** (discounted if attending two Enhancement sessions for the year) = $250

**2027 Year Level Levies** (Per student)

| | |
|---|---|
| Prep | - $925.00 |
| Year 1 | - $925.00 |
| Year 2 | - $925.00 |
| Year 3 | - $1120.00 |
| Year 4 | - $1120.00 |
| Year 5 | - $1740.00 |
| Year 6 | - $1740.00 |

**Pastoral Care and Financial Support**

In keeping with our Catholic ethos, financial hardship should never be a barrier to a child receiving a Catholic education at St Michael's. Confidential fee assistance remains available to eligible Health Care Card holders and to families experiencing financial hardship or a significant change in circumstances. We understand that circumstances can change unexpectedly, and we encourage families to speak with us rather than allow financial concerns to become a source of additional pressure. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact me directly for a confidential conversation so that we can discuss how the school may be able to assist.

We sincerely appreciate the trust our families place in St Michael's and the contribution you make to our school community. Your partnership enables us to continue providing a nurturing, inclusive and high-quality Catholic education for your child.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we prepare for 2027.

Annie Herbison
**PRINCIPAL**