

Dear Parents and Carers

2017 Tuition Fees

The annual review has occurred to determine the level of school tuition fees in 2017. We are delighted to be able to advise that tuition fees for our primary schools in the Cairns Diocese in 2017 will be at 2016 levels and that secondary college fees will rise by 2.5% - a much smaller increase than previous years.

The decision to raise fees is not taken for granted or made without careful consideration of the resource needs of schools balanced against the capacity of families to contribute.

For Catholic schools, the need to charge tuition fees and levies arises from the lower funding that is provided by governments for students in non-government schools. Tuition fees are used by schools to meet ongoing expenditure of the school. A minor portion of the tuition fee is used to fund the purchase of land for existing and new schools and accommodation for teaching staff.

The 2017 tuition fee schedule for families with children attending primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Cairns is attached. Sibling discounts will continue to be offered to families with more than one child enrolled in one or more Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, however the level of discount has been adjusted downwards for primary students to achieve consistency of sibling discounts across primary and secondary schools. The discount for two students is now 15% and 30% for three students.

The 2017 tuition fee increase applies to tuition fees only. Schools and colleges charge various levies to support specific initiatives or needs within each school or college community. As these costs vary from school to school, these levies are set individually by the schools.

I appreciate that some families may face financial hardship in meeting fees and levies. It is important that families who want to access Catholic Education for their children are not excluded because they do not have the means to pay fees. It is our policy and practice to assist any family in this situation.

This year a fees discount was trialled for eligible parents/carers with a means-tested Australian Government Health Card or Pensioner Concession Card to receive a 70% rebate on tuition fees (an information sheet is attached). I am pleased to advise that this discount will continue to be offered in 2017.



Families without an eligible concession card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should continue to apply for special consideration by speaking with their school Principal or Parish Priest who will treat the situation with understanding, sensitivity and confidentiality.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to Catholic Education. We are proud of the quality of education provided in our schools and we are keenly aware and grateful of how much parental support we receive, both through payment of tuition fees and levies and so many other forms of generous help.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Dixon', written in a cursive style.

Bill Dixon
Executive Director



Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

2017 TUITION FEES



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The approximate cost of the tuition fee component of a Catholic primary school education over a 40 week school year is \$37.50 per week (or \$28.80 per calendar week). For a secondary education, the approximate tuition fee ranges from \$64.30 per school week (\$49.50 per calendar week) for lower secondary to \$78.90 per school week (\$60.70 per calendar week) for higher secondary.

School Fees also comprise of levies, which vary from school to school, and may include items such as a Building Levy, Subject Levies and General Purpose Levy. Levies in secondary colleges add approximately \$40 per week. These approximations are before Subsequent Child and Rural Location discounts.

Discounts apply for families with more than one child attending Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cairns. In primary and secondary schools, a 15% discount on tuition fees applies for two children, a 30% discount for three children, and up to a 70% discount for seven children.

In Catholic secondary colleges, a 15% discount on tuition fees applies for two children, 30% for three children, and up to a 70% discount for seven children. Families with children at both primary and secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese also receive a discount even though the children are at two different Catholic schools.

Twelve primary schools in the diocese and two secondary colleges attract a further discount because of their rural location and/or having limited access to a Catholic secondary college.

Please refer to the Explanatory Notes below, to assist with calculating fees from the **2017 Per Student Tuition Fee Schedule**, overleaf.

Explanatory Notes

- **To calculate tuition fees payable, the following steps are necessary;**
 - a) Determine number of students per family attending Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cairns.
 - b) Identify that column in Per Student Tuition Fee Schedule (top of schedule).
 - c) Identify annual fee per student from that column for each level of education the students are receiving. That is Primary, Middle School, Lower Secondary or Upper Secondary.
 - d) If the students are attending a 'Country Discount' school the annual fee per student is the fee per student after country discount.
- **Examples of tuition fee calculation for different family structures are; (non-country discount schools)**
 - **2 Student family with both students in Primary School**
 - a) From the column '2 students in Parish & Diocesan Schools' the annual fee per student is \$1,275.
 - b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are \$1,275 per student times 2 students. Total tuition fees payable of \$2,550.
 - **3 Student family with all students in Primary School**
 - a) From the column '3 students in Parish & Diocesan Schools' the annual fee per student is \$1,050.
 - b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are \$1,050 per student times 3 students. Total tuition fees payable of \$3,150.
 - **2 Student family with 1 student in Primary and 1 student in Lower Secondary**
 - a) From the column '2 students in Parish & Diocesan Schools' the annual fee for the primary student is \$1,275 and the annual fee for the lower secondary student is \$2,187.
 - b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are \$3,462 (\$1,275 + \$2,187).
 - **3 Student family with 1 student in Primary, 1 student in Lower Secondary and 1 student in Upper Secondary**
 - a) From the column '3 students in Parish & Diocesan Schools' the annual fee for the primary student is \$1,050, the annual fee for the lower secondary student is \$1,801 and the annual fee for the upper secondary student is \$2,210.
 - b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are \$5,061 (\$1,050 + \$1,801 + \$2,210).

Catholic Diocese of Cairns 2017 Per Student Tuition Fee Schedule

TUITION FEE PER STUDENT							
Number of Students in Parish & Diocesan Schools							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PREP & PRIMARY - YEARS P-6				<i>No additional charge for 4 or more siblings</i>			
Discount Percentage	0%	15%	30%	48%	58%	65%	70%
PREP & PRIMARY - per week (40 wks)	37.50	31.88	26.25	19.69	15.75	13.13	11.25
PREP & PRIMARY - per term	375.00	318.75	262.50	196.88	157.50	131.25	112.50
2017 - PREP & PRIMARY - per year	\$1,500	\$1,275	\$1,050	\$788	\$630	\$525	\$450
<i>LESS COUNTRY DISCOUNT @ 10%</i>	<i>-\$150</i>	<i>-\$128</i>	<i>-\$105</i>	<i>-\$79</i>	<i>-\$63</i>	<i>-\$53</i>	<i>-\$45</i>
2017 - PREP & PRIMARY AFTER COUNTRY DISCOUNT	\$1,350	\$1,147	\$945	\$709	\$568	\$474	\$406

2017 - MIDDLE SCHOOL (St Andrew's College Year 6)	\$1,904	\$1,481	\$1,169	\$876	\$701	\$584	\$502
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LOWER SECONDARY - YEARS 7-9

Discount Percentage	0%	15%	30%	48%	58%	65%	70%
LOWER SECONDARY - per week (40 wks)	64.32	54.67	45.02	33.77	27.01	22.51	19.30
LOWER SECONDARY - per term	643.19	546.71	450.23	333.67	270.14	225.12	192.96
2017 - LOWER SECONDARY - per year	\$2,573	\$2,187	\$1,801	\$1,351	\$1,081	\$900	\$772
<i>LESS COUNTRY DISCOUNT @ 10%</i>	<i>-\$257</i>	<i>-\$219</i>	<i>-\$180</i>	<i>-\$135</i>	<i>-\$108</i>	<i>-\$90</i>	<i>-\$77</i>
2017 - LOWER SECONDARY AFTER COUNTRY DISCOUNT	\$2,315	\$1,968	\$1,621	\$1,216	\$972	\$810	\$695

UPPER SECONDARY - YEARS 10-12

Discount Percentage	0%	15%	30%	48%	58%	65%	70%
UPPER SECONDARY - per week (40 wks)	78.93	67.09	55.25	41.44	33.15	27.62	23.68
UPPER SECONDARY - per term	789.25	670.86	552.48	414.36	331.49	276.24	236.78
2017 - UPPER SECONDARY - per year	\$3,157	\$2,683	\$2,210	\$1,657	\$1,326	\$1,105	\$947
<i>LESS COUNTRY DISCOUNT @ 10%</i>	<i>-\$316</i>	<i>-\$268</i>	<i>-\$221</i>	<i>-\$166</i>	<i>-\$133</i>	<i>-\$110</i>	<i>-\$95</i>
2017 - UPPER SECONDARY AFTER COUNTRY DISCOUNT	\$2,841	\$2,415	\$1,989	\$1,492	\$1,193	\$994	\$852

Schools Qualifying as Country Discount

St Joseph's School, Atherton
 St Michael's School, Gordonvale
 St John's School, Silkwood
 St Clare's School, Tully
 Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail

St Rita's School, Babinda
 St Augustine's School, Mossman
 St Rita's School, South Johnstone
 St Teresa's School, Ravenshoe
 St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa

St Anthony's School, Dimbulah
 Mount St Bernard College, Herberton
 St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba
 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Thursday Island

In addition to the above schools the 2017 Tuition Fee Schedule applies to;

Our Lady Help of Christians School, Earlville
 St Thomas' School, Mareeba
 Mother of Good Counsel School, North Cairns
 St Joseph's School, Parramatta Park
 St Augustine's College, Cairns

St Therese's School, Bentley Park
 Holy Cross School, Trinity Park
 St Gerard Majella School, Woree
 St Monica's College, Cairns
 St Mary's Catholic College, Woree

St Francis Xavier's School, Manunda
 St Andrew's Catholic College, Redlynch
 Good Counsel College, Innisfail
 MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter



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CATHOLIC SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNTS from and including 2017



For families with more than one child in primary and/or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, attend a country school, or hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card.

Why do Catholic schools have fees?

To provide quality learning environments, Catholic schools have fees to help meet the shortfall in Government funding. Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible.

The term 'school fees' includes tuition fees and levies. Each school assesses the school levies necessary to meet their individual school and community operation requirements.

In doing this they are firstly guided by the diocesan tuition fee set by Catholic Education Services.

How do I enrol my child in a Catholic school?

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Principal of their preferred Catholic school to find out about their enrolment procedures and what information is required to complete the enrolment application (eg: birth certificate, baptism certificate, school reports and academic records if applicable). Enrolment applications are accepted at any time.

Schools may not always be able to accept every family who applies, due to the availability of places.

In these cases, the Principal is guided by the Cairns Catholic Education enrolment policy that has been set by the Diocesan Education Board of Governance. Many schools have waiting lists if this occurs.

Multi-student/school family discount

Families with more than one child in the same or other primary or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese receive fee discounts for the second, third and subsequent children.

This information is collected by the school at the time of enrolment and the discount is automatically applied.

Country area discount

Schools in more remote, country areas also qualify for a further Country discount. This discount automatically applies at the time of enrolment. Country schools are listed on the Cairns Catholic Education schedule of fees.

Pensioner and health care card holder fee discount

In addition to these family and country school discounts that have historically been offered, Cairns Catholic Education offers a means-tested concession card discount. Parents/carers with a means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card may be eligible to receive a 70% discount to tuition fees (does not apply to school levies).

Card holders are required to advise the school of their concession card at enrolment or when the card is gained. Once the card is sighted by the school's administration, tuition fees for future terms only will be adjusted. This scheme is intended to assist those families who genuinely do not have the financial capacity to pay tuition fees in full.

Special consideration

Families without a means-tested concession card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their school Principal or Parish Priest to apply for special consideration.

No child will be denied enrolment due to genuine financial difficulty which has been verified by the school.

Catholic Education Services
PO Box 5296 Cairns Qld 4870
Tel: 4050 9700
office@cns.catholic.edu.au
www.cns.catholic.edu.au