



Friday 8 November, 2024

2025 SCHOOL FEES & STUDENT LEVIES

Dear Families,

Please be assured that in determining the 2025 school fees and student levies structure, the first priority of our Catholic School is the provision of an affordable Catholic Education for all families, as we continue to aim to effectively deliver on our school's goals of maintaining educational excellence in a Catholic context.

At Sacred Heart Kew we are mindful of keeping our fees as low as responsibly possible. As such, over the last few years, not only have our family fees and student levies remained relatively constant, but we have also absorbed all cost increases whilst continuing to deliver a high standard of education. With this in mind, and in keeping with current CPI and external cost increases, our Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Finance Business Partner, in consultation with the School Principal and the School Advisory Council have ratified an increase of 6.5% to our family fees for next year. **Please know that it is only after careful consideration that this increase be applied, allowing us to maintain all current academic and extra-curricular activities next year.** Any 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 education experience that supports every student to flourish. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

Sacred Heart Kew 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 tuition fees 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 tuition fees support our school.

2025 SCHOOL FEES

Fees for the year are charged on the basis of the number of children each family has at the school, and are made up as follows:

FAMILY FEES

Basic fee	(One child)	\$2,750
Basic fee	(Two or more children)	\$4,325
Gardens & Grounds levy	(per family)	\$231
Building levy	(per family)	\$883

The building levy of \$883 for the year remains for every school family, and is not tax deductible.

As has been the case in recent years, it is **not** our policy to reimburse any child who is absent from a chargeable activity.

It is essential for all families to pay school fees and levies, so that the costs of running and maintaining the school can be met. Your cooperation and support is required in paying each account when issued.



STUDENT LEVIES

Student Levies are charged for various school activities undertaken during the school year. **These levies are per child, not per family.** They are spent directly on each child's curriculum needs, including: school texts and supplies, curriculum programs, classroom and art materials, photocopying, excursions and incursions, diaries, school camps, sport and swimming. As children in each level participate in different programs these levies may vary for different year levels. As was the case this year, all children's booklists will be incorporated into the student levies. Your child's booklist items will be waiting at school, ready for the start of the 2025 school year.

2025 STUDENT LEVIES

Prep	\$1,283 per child
Year 1	\$1,313 per child
Year 2	\$1,324 per child
Year 3	\$1,704 per child
Year 4	\$1,954 per child
Year 5 *	\$1,448 per child
Year 6 *	\$1,718 per child (includes Sailing program)

PLEASE NOTE – YEAR FIVE AND SIX STUDENT LEVIES

*These two student levies are exclusive of \$1600 for Canberra Trip (CAMP) – required to be paid late 2024

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNT

- School fees are due in 3 payments and covers family fees and student levies for the entire 2025 school year. **The annual account for 2025 will be sent home in February with due dates for three payments to be made promptly in March, May and August.**

Accounts can be paid by EFTPOS (Mastercard or Visa). A Direct Debit facility is also available: weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly on a date of your choice. Please contact the school office for relevant forms. If tendering cash please provide exact money as change is not kept on the premises.

- Families experiencing difficulty with payment must make early arrangements to meet with the Principal*
- Families in default are notified that the School will use the services of a Debt Collection Agency.*
- All bank dishonour fees and charges (howsoever caused by a lack of funds in the transferring account) will be added to the total amount owing to the school.*

We are most grateful for the cooperation and support of all our school families. This enables us to maintain our high standards in both the academic and physical aspects of the school, ensuring that the future of the Sacred Heart Kew school community remains bright.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Weekes

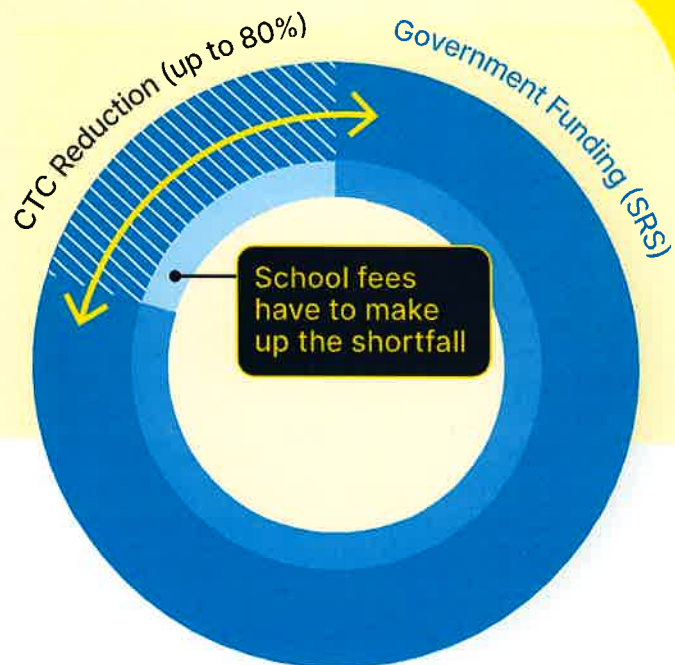
School Principal

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.