20 July 2015

2016 Tuition Fees

Dear Parents

The annual review has occurred to determine the level of school tuition fees in 2016. The decision to raise fees is not taken for granted, nor taken 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 staff accommodation for schools in regional towns.

In 2016 the attached tuition fee schedule will apply for families with children attending primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Cairns. The movement in 2016 tuition fees is an increase of 2.5%. This is a lower movement than previous years in recognition of the low inflation environment that currently exists. A major objective is to make Catholic Education affordable to all and the 2016 level of tuition fees will assist in achieving this.

In addition to the above movement, the level of sibling discount in primary schools has reduced. This reduction is necessary as many of our primary schools have a lower enrolment as a consequence of Year 7 moving to secondary. Reducing the level of sibling discount offered in primary schools will help to offset reduced income levels.

Catholic Education continues to offer discounts to families with more than one child in one or more Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese.

The 2016 tuition fee increase applies to tuition fees only. Schools and colleges charge various levies to support specific initiatives or needs within each school and college. As this level of expenditure differs at each site, these levies are individually set by 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.

As of 2016, parents/carers with a means-tested Australian Government Health Card or Pensioner Concession Card will be eligible to receive an automatic concession on tuition fees (refer attached information sheet). Families without these cards 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 generosity.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

BILL DIXON
Executive Director
Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

2016 TUITION FEES

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 $62.75 per school week ($48.30 per calendar week) for lower secondary to $77.00 per school week ($59.20 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 $35 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 schools, a 21% discount on tuition fees applies for two children, a 38% discount for three children, and up to a 73% 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.

Eleven 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 2016 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
    e) From the column ‘2 students in Parish & Diocesan Schools’ the annual fee per student is $1,186.
    f) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are $2,372.
  - 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 $931.
    b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are $2,793.
  - 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 $1,186 and the annual fee for the lower secondary student is $2,134.
    b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are $3,320 ($1,186 + $2,134).
  - 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 $931, the annual fee for the lower secondary student is $1,757 and the annual fee for the upper secondary student is $2,156.
    b) Annual tuition fees for this family structure are $4,844 ($931 + $1,757 + $2,156).
Catholic Diocese of Cairns 2016 Per Student Tuition Fee Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUITION FEE PER STUDENT</th>
<th>Number of Students in Parish &amp; Diocesan Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP &amp; PRIMARY - YEARS P-6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount Percentage</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREP &amp; PRIMARY - per week (40 wks)</td>
<td>37.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP &amp; PRIMARY - per term</td>
<td>374.89</td>
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<td>2016 - PREP &amp; PRIMARY - per year</td>
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<td>LESS COUNTRY DISCOUNT @ 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 - PREP &amp; PRIMARY AFTER COUNTRY DISCOUNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREP &amp; PRIMARY - YEARS P-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discount Percentage</td>
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<td>LOWER SECONDARY - per week (40 wks)</td>
<td>62.76</td>
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<td>LOWER SECONDARY - per term</td>
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<td>UPPER SECONDARY - YEARS 10-12</td>
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<td>UPPER SECONDARY - per week (40 wks)</td>
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<td>UPPER SECONDARY - per term</td>
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<td>LESS COUNTRY DISCOUNT @ 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 - UPPER SECONDARY AFTER COUNTRY DISCOUNT</td>
<td>$2,772</td>
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</table>

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

In addition to the above schools the 2016 Tuition Fee Schedule applies to:

Our Lady Help of Christians School, Earlville
St Thomas’s 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
Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail
MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter

Revised July 2015
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 (e.g.: 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 has introduced means-tested concession card discounts.

Parents/carers with a means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card are automatically 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 will be adjusted.

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 financial difficulty. The school Principal or Parish Priest will treat the situation with understanding, sensitivity and confidentiality.

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