

14 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: 2024 Fees, levies and family discount

Each year we review our fees and levies to ensure we can maintain and operate our schools at a high standard, now and in the future. While a significant portion of the cost of education is provided by State and Commonwealth Governments, the contribution of parents and parishes is still important in achieving that purpose.

We seek to make Catholic diocesan schools as affordable as possible and aim to keep your family's contribution as low as possible whilst achieving the strongest educational and spiritual outcomes for over 21,000 students across our 58 schools.

This year, we have continued to support many families across our Diocese by reducing their fees or arranging other payment plans. We are committed to ensuring that no child will be denied a Catholic education because of a family's inability to cover the fees and **will continue to support families facing genuine hardship.**

Tuition fees and the building levy will be increasing in 2024 and these are outlined on the following page.

For families with multiple children attending Diocesan Catholic Schools, we are maintaining the Family Discount at 2023 levels and note the discount is applicable for each child. Furthermore, discounted tuition fees are provided to Health Care and Pension Card holders who continue to receive a 50% discount off the Diocesan Tuition fee for each member of the family.

In establishing these fees and levies, we have sought to ensure the best possible learning environment for your children. In 2024, we will continue to invest in our teachers and staff as well as building works to upgrade school facilities and infrastructure across the Diocese, additional information is also provided in the attached.

We thank you for your continued support of our schools and **assure families that where affordability is a real issue, you will be supported in your need.**

Yours sincerely



Steve Lemos

Head of Schools

2024 Fees, Levy and Contributions

Tuition Fees

In 2024, Diocesan Tuition Fees will be as follows.

Scholastic Year	Annual tuition fee	Difference from 2023	Difference per week
Kinder to Year 6	\$1,487	\$110 per annum	\$2.12 per calendar week
Year 7 to 10	\$2,033	\$150 per annum	\$2.90 per calendar week
Year 11 to 12	\$3,089	\$228 per annum	\$4.40 per calendar week

Family Discount

In 2024, the Family Discount will be maintained at the 2023 level and is applied to the full rate of Tuition Fees for families with multiple children attending Diocesan Catholic Schools as follows;

Family size	2024 discount (per child)
1 child family	No discount
2 child family	15%
3 child family	25%
4+ child family	50%

Affordability and support

The Diocese is committed to ensuring that no child will be denied a Catholic education because of a family's genuine inability to cover the fees.

To assist families with limited financial resources, discounted tuition fees are provided to Health Care and Pension Card holders. Discounted tuition fees are provided to Health Care and Pension Card holders. The discounted tuition fee is 50% of the full rate for each child and the discount is only applied to the Tuition Fee.

Additionally, any family experiencing financial difficulty is entitled to fee assistance and will be appropriately and confidentially supported to assess what is affordable for their family. **The school principal can be contacted to discuss these matters.**

Together with parents, clergy and school staff, we are committed to offering children and young people in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese a school environment in which their faith and education can be nurtured, and their potential can be realised. We value the opportunity to work in partnership with parents and carers and thank you for your continuing support.

Diocesan Family School Building Levy

In 2024, the Building Levy will be \$1,638 per family. This is an increase in comparison with 2023, equating to an additional \$121 per annum or \$2.33 per week per family.

The School Building Levy is pooled to contribute to past, present and future costs for building projects across all schools in the Diocese. With a robust program of capital works, we aim to ensure our students enjoy the physical facilities to enhance their learning experience.

The program of works scheduled for completion in 2024 totals \$110 million in costs and includes major refurbishment and capital works such as new buildings, classroom replacements, specialist rooms, playground areas, facilities and amenities.

For further details on Capital Works and Major Maintenance projects over the course of 2023 and 2024 please visit <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/school-property-projects/>.

Individual school resource and service fees

Each school sets these fees to cover a range of costs including the supply of goods and services including resources such as textbooks, exercise books or subject levies, technology and excursion costs. The cost and nature of these fees vary between schools and year groups.

Each school advises these fees in the Parent Handbook as well as itemising them in the school fee account.

Diocesan Pastoral Contribution

This is a voluntary contribution to support the work of parishes and other pastoral ministries of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The suggested Pastoral Contribution remains at the same level as previous years and continues to be \$300 per family (\$100 per term for three terms).

The Diocese provides a range of services to the community through its agencies including the Catholic Schools Office, CatholicCare Social Services, The Rosewood Centre, Hunter Community Housing, St Nicholas Early Education, OOSH, and the Pathways training program. These services are partly funded by government.

The Diocesan Pastoral Contribution supports the unfunded services provided by the agencies just mentioned and also our on-going pastoral works and initiatives across our region, mainly in relation to youth programs and leadership development, social justice involvements, the Aboriginal, Refugee and Seafarers ministries, and our chaplaincies in hospitals, prisons, the Port of Newcastle and the University.

We invite and encourage your support of these works by your contribution to the Diocesan Pastoral Fund that can conveniently be made in conjunction with your school fees.