



Monday, 12 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support throughout the year. I am writing to share the school fees schedule for 2023 and remind you about some changes for Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) from the start of next year.

From 1 January 2023, CEDP will have a new governance framework and be known as Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD). Our staff and schools' commitment to ensuring students receive a high-quality Catholic education will not be affected by this change. In practical terms, you will start to see the change of name and ABN on our letterheads, website and social media platforms, fee statements and in other correspondence from us or our schools.

Your rights and obligations, including student fees payable under your existing enrolment contract with your school, will be adopted by CSPD from 1 January 2023. You do not need to take any action to continue your child or children's enrolment in one of our schools.

2023 Fees

With consideration of the current cost of living challenges for Australian families, the decision has been made to keep the fee increase to 2.5% on the 2022 school fee levels. This is well below the current inflation rate.

As has been the case in previous years, support remains available for families experiencing financial hardship. The process for applying for fee help is simple - more information is included below.

School fees come in 3 components - Diocesan fees, Diocesan Building Levy and School Based fees:

1. Diocesan fees

These fees are set by CEDP and are the same for every school in the Diocese. They mainly cover the cost of teaching and delivering the agreed curriculum. There are **significant sibling discounts** for families with more than one child at a CEDP school (it does not have to be the same school).

Those discounts and a list of the annual Diocesan fees for 2023 are outlined below.

2023 Diocesan fee schedule (per year)

ANNUAL FEES	No charge for 4 th + children	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$1,272	\$954	\$636
	Years 1 – 6	\$1,644	\$1,233	\$822
Secondary	Years 7 – 8	\$2,280	\$1,710	\$1,140
	Years 9 – 10	\$2,529	\$1,896	\$1,266
	Years 11 – 12	\$3,228	\$2,421	\$1,614

As a guide, the Diocesan fee represents around half the overall fee per year.

2. Diocesan Building Levy

This fee is set by CEDP and is the same for every school in the Diocese. The annual Diocesan Building Levy for 2023 is \$855. This fee is designed to cover improvements and upgrades of facilities, which may occur over a number of years, not necessarily the year of charge. **There is only one Diocesan Building Levy per family with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College Kingswood.** A sibling discount of 50% is granted to families with children within the bordering Archdiocese of Sydney and Dioceses of Wollongong and Broken Bay. This levy is not tax deductible.

3. School-Based Fees

These are determined by each school in the Diocese according to the needs of that school and are billable for each child. Often called 'resource fees' or 'activity fees', these fees help schools cover the costs of things like teaching resources, technology and excursions. Please contact your school to find out more about their School Based fees.

Here's how we can help

From time to time, some families experience financial challenges. As well as sibling discounts, confidential fee support is available through the following means:

- **Flexible payment options**
Families are offered flexible payment options at the start of each year, allowing you to select a payment plan that best suits you. Payments can be made by direct debit or BPay on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis at no additional charge.
- **Fee assistance**
No child will be refused enrolment in a Catholic school because of a family's financial inability to pay school fees. Please have a confidential discussion with your school principal if your family experiences financial difficulty or hardship so an appropriate arrangement can be made.
- **Bishop Manning Support Fund**
In addition to fee assistance programs, the Bishop Manning Support Fund is available to new families who experience difficulty meeting the cost of school fees due to financial hardship. Further information is available on our [website](#).
- **Byallawa Co-contribution Scheme**
The Byallawa co-contribution scheme provides assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to ensure a quality Catholic education is affordable and accessible. Further information is available [here](#).

As you may be aware, after more than 16 years in the role, I am retiring as Executive Director of CEDP at the end of 2022. I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you and your children in our wonderful school communities over this time and wish you all every blessing for the future. The new Executive Director of Catholic Schools for CSPD, **Mr Jack de Groot**, will commence his role at the end of January 2023. I know you will join me in wishing Jack all the very best in the role.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Catholic schools.

Yours sincerely



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