



5 November, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Each school year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle reviews the fees for students in our diocesan schools for the coming year. By far the greater part of our schools' funding now comes from State and Commonwealth government funding, but it is noted with gratitude the commitment and continuing financial contribution of parents and parish communities that is so essential to fill the gap between the funds provided by government and the actual cost of running our schools.

This letter is to inform you of the fee arrangements for 2019. The following rates and discounts have been reviewed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Diocesan Finance Council (DFC) and the Trustees of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (the Trustees). Upon the advice of the CSO, DFC and the Trustees, they have been approved by Bishop Wright.

The school fees constitute 3 components:

1. Diocesan Tuition Fees
2. Individual School Resource and Service Fees
3. Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DFSBL)

## 1. Diocesan Tuition Fees 2019

A one-off contribution from the Catholic Schools Office to each school in the diocese, will allow the Diocesan Tuition Fees to remain at 2018 levels. This means that for 2019 Diocesan Tuition Fees, full rate, will be :

Kinder to Year 6	\$ 1,233	(zero increase from 2018)
Years 7 to 10	\$ 1,698	(zero increase from 2018)
Years 11 to 12	\$ 2,559	(zero increase from 2018)

In 2019, the Family discount on Diocesan Tuition Fees, full rate, will be:

1 child family	0% - full rate to be applied
2 child family	10% - each child
3 child family	20% - each child
4 child family	40% - each child
5+ child family	50% - each child

## 2. Individual School Resource and Service Fees

These are fees set by individual schools and can cover a range of costs including the supply of resources such as texts, school supplies, exercise books, subject levies, technology, excursion costs etc. The cost and nature of the fees can vary between schools and they will be set out in the Parent Handbook provided by the school and itemised in the school fee account from the school.

## 3. Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DFSBL)

The DFSBL is charged to the oldest child for each family. The DFSBL is pooled to contribute towards past, present and future costs for building projects across all existing schools, and for the development of new Catholic schools within the Diocese.

This DFSBL contribution from families is spent on major refurbishment and capital works in existing schools, including classroom replacement, toilet facilities, specialist rooms, and playground areas. In new schools the DFSBL provides

all capital works including administration block, general purpose learning areas, chapel, specialist rooms, toilet facilities, and non-teaching spaces including playground and oval spaces.

The Catholic Schools Office is committed to a robust building and development program across the school system that will truly enhance the physical facilities for students.

The DFSBL in 2019 will be \$990 per family. The contribution is reviewed, recommended and approved in the same fashion as mentioned earlier.

#### 4. Diocesan Pastoral Contribution

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle consists of parishes, schools, CatholicCare Social Services, St Nicholas Early Education and the Curia offices. The Diocesan offices exist to support the work of Parishes and other pastoral ministries that are the responsibility of the Bishop and the diocesan community. There are approximately 160,000 Catholics residing in our diocese.

The voluntary diocesan pastoral contribution for 2019 will be \$300 per family (\$100 per term for 3 terms). These funds will support the ongoing pastoral works of the diocese which include, amongst many initiatives:

- The diocesan pastoral ministries office and the activities of its many advisory councils - the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Adult Faith Formation Council, the Liturgy Council, the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council, the Social Justice Council and the Diocesan Council of Ministry with Young People.
- The provision of chaplains ministering in the following areas – Newcastle University, Newcastle Port, Prisons, Hospitals and CatholicCare Social Services.
- Family Community Faith Coordinators who work to reach out to and connect families with their local parish and school.
- Pastoral Coordinators who work in those parishes without a resident Parish Priest.

#### Fee Reductions

To assist families with limited financial resources, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle offer a lower tuition fee to 'means tested' low income families such as Health Care and Pension Card holders. This rate is 50% of the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate for each child. This discount applies only to the Diocesan Tuition Fee, not to the DFSBL or other resource and service fees charged by each individual school.

Please note, however, that it is our policy that financial hardship should not prevent a child from attending a Catholic School and no child will be denied a Catholic Education because of a family's genuine inability to pay the required school fees. This does not apply only to the eligible Health Care/Pension Card holders mentioned above. Any family experiencing financial difficulties is entitled to fee assistance. The Principal of the school can be contacted to discuss such situations.

Together with parents, clergy and school staff, we are committed to offering the children and young people in this diocese, schools in which their faith can be nurtured in outstanding learning environments. We seek to assist young people to realise their full human potential, spiritual, intellectual, physical and social. We value the opportunity to work in partnership with you to that end, and thank you for your continuing support of Catholic Education in this Diocese.

Yours sincerely



Most Reverend William Wright  
BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



Gerard Mowbray  
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS (ACTING)