



16 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: 2021 Fees, levies and family discount

We thank you for your continued support of your schools in what has been a most unpredictable year for all.

Each year we review our fees and levies to ensure we can maintain and operate our schools at a high standard, now and into 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 the 20,000 students across our 59 schools. **Importantly, we are committed to ensuring that no child will be denied a catholic education because of a family's genuine inability to cover the fees.**

This year, we have supported more than 2,500 families across our diocese by reducing their fees, deferring their payments or arranging other payment plans. We will continue to support families facing genuine hardship.

For families with several children attending Diocesan Catholic Schools, we are introducing an increased Family Discount. This discount will offset the 2021 fee increase for most multi-student families. Please refer to the Family Discount table for details.

2021 Tuition Fees will increase by 1.5% and the Family School Building Levy will increase by 7.5%. Further detail outlining our 2021 Fees, Levy and Contributions is attached.

This year we have continued to invest in new school building works, as well as upgrades to existing schools' facilities and amenities across the diocese, to a total value of more than \$175m. Our program of capital works continues to serve our families and students with improved facilities.

In establishing these fees and levies, we have sought to ensure the best possible learning environment for your children. **We encourage feedback and assure our families that where affordability is a real issue, you will be supported in your need.**

With every thanks, yours sincerely



Most Reverend William Wright
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Gerard Mowbray
Director of Schools

2021 Fees, Levy and Contributions

Tuition Fees

In 2021, a 1.5% increase will be applied to tuition fees.

Scholastic Year	Annual tuition fee	Difference from 2020	Difference per week
Kinder to Year 6	\$1,293	\$18 per annum	\$0.35 per calendar week
Year 7 to 10	\$1,767	\$27 per annum	\$0.52 per calendar week
Year 11 to 12	\$2,682	\$42 per annum	\$0.81 per calendar week

Family Discount

In 2021, an increased Family Discount will be applied to the full rate of Tuition Fees for families with multiple children attending Diocesan Catholic Schools as follows;

Family size	2021 discount (per child)	2020 discount (per child)
1 child family	No discount	No discount
2 child family	15%	10%
3 child family	25%	20%
4 child family	50%	40%
5 child family	50%	50%

Diocesan Family School Building Levy

In 2021, the Building Levy will be increasing by 7.5% to \$1,344 per family. This increase equates to an additional \$94 per annum or \$1.81 per week per family.

We anticipate that for multi-student families attending Diocesan Catholic Schools this increase will be offset by the increased family discount.

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 2021 totals \$100 million in costs and includes major refurbishment and capital works such as classroom replacements, specialist rooms, playground areas, facilities and amenities.

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.

Family 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. The 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 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 2020 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 Catholic Schools Office, CatholicCare Social Services, St Nicholas Early Education and OOSH, and the Pathways training program in Early Education. 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.