

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.

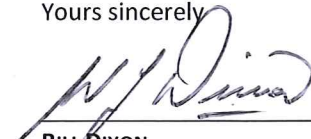
The 2016 tuition fee increase applies to tuition fees only. Schools and colleges charge various levies to support specific initiatives or needs within each school and college. As this level of expenditure differs at each site, these levies are individually set by schools.

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



BILL DIXON
Executive Director

