



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEE LONG

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YEAR 2024 SCHOOL FEES & LEVIES

Dear Families,

St Mary's School, Geelong is dependent on the Fees & Levies set each year and carefully review any annual increases, taking into consideration the current cost of living (Consumer Price Index – CPI) and the ability to continually provide quality programs, resources and facilities to our families.

After advice from our governing body, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and consultation between the Principal and our MACS Finance Business Partner (FBP), the annual amounts have now been finalised with the following approved as the **Fee & Levy charges for 2024**:

▪ Family Fee	\$1,925.00
▪ Building Levy	365.00
	\$2,290.00

ADDITIONAL CHARGES (PER CHILD):

▪ Curriculum Levy (All Students)	180.00
▪ Technology Levy (All Students)	85.00
▪ Activity & Event Levy (All Students)	20.00
▪ Chromebook Levy (Yrs 3-6)	50.00
▪ Sacramental Levy (Yrs 3, 4 & 6)	30.00
▪ Swimming Levy (Yrs Foundation-4)	90.00
▪ Camp Fee* – Extended Day Camp (Yrs 3&4)	100.00
▪ Camp Fee* – 3 days/2 nights (Yrs 5&6)	350.00

These Fees & Levies represent the **Capacity to Contribute (CtC)**, an amount the Australian Government has determined our school community can financially contribute towards the school's operating cost, ie; the amount that is paid by families to support the programs, resources and facilities offered after receiving funding from Federal & State Governments. It is calculated on the **Direct Measure of Income (DMI)** score, which is based on the annual median family income of our school community over a three-year rolling average value. Therefore, higher DMI factors indicate a higher earning capacity from the school's families and thereby a lesser amount of Government funding required and received. Billing is made up of the following three (3) compulsory components:

1. **Family Fee:** charged annually **per family**, it covers the majority of school expenses and includes school paid staff salaries, student protection insurance, administration and operating costs of the school.
2. **Building Levy:** charged annually **per family**, is a building improvements and maintenance levy and is used for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of school buildings, and to support capital loan repayments.
It is compulsory and not tax deductible. (NB: *Voluntary donations directly to the School Building Fund would be tax deductible. Please contact the school for more information.*)
3. **Additional Charges (per student):**
 - **Curriculum Levy & Technology Levy** - charged annually **per student** to assist with the cost of text books, stationery & classroom materials, educational experiences, IT hardware upgrades, software & licensing.
 - **Activity & Event Levy** - charged annually **per student** to cover a student's involvement in activities where they provide a gift for their chosen recipient for **Mother's Day & Father's Day** and participate in **Feast Days (Mannix, Mercy & McAuley) & Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)** where support is given to various Community Groups including the St Mary's Parish Pantry.
(Please note: The school's Parents & Friend's Association (PFA) will hold various separate events which may include a cost).
 - **Chromebook Levy** - charged annually **per student in Years 3-6** to help provide a dedicated Chromebook device to each student for use in class and to assist with any future remote learning or at home tasks. **Devices remain the property of the school at all times.**

- **Sacramental Levy** is associated with the Sacramental Program conducted each year for students within **Years 3, 4 & 6** (*Reconciliation, First Eucharist/Holy Communion and Confirmation, respectively*) and charged annually for **every student** within these year levels. (*Please note: although Non-Catholics participate in the Sacramental Program they are not eligible to receive a Sacrament*).
- **Swimming Program Levy** is associated with the **compulsory** five (5) day program and charged annually for **all students in Foundation – Year 4** to support the cost of this program.
- **Annual Camps** (**Please note: All Camp Food is included in the Fee and is GST inclusive*):
 - ~ Students in **Years 3 & 4** participate in an **extended day camp** for 2024
 - ~ Students in **Years 5 & 6** participate in a **two (2) night camp** (3 days/2 nights)

Families are billed annually for School Fees & Levies at the commencement of each school year for their enrolled child(ren) and **ALL FAMILIES are required to have a completed Fee & Levies Commitment Agreement** in place to indicate their payment method as listed below (*Please note: Families who request individual split billing will need to complete separate Fee & Levies Commitment Agreements and their payments will be adjusted accordingly*):

- **DIRECT DEBIT: Annual** (*deducted 28 February each year*), **Quarterly** (*4 payments per year in February, May, August and November*), **Monthly** (*10 payments per year on or near 20th of each month February to November*), **Fortnightly** (*20 payments per year commencing from mid-February through to November*)
- **LUMP SUM:** (*full payment*) by 28 February 2024
- **PRIVATE FEE ARRANGEMENT:** Approved by the Principal and reviewed each year. If terms of the agreement are not met, families will be required to undertake a Direct Debit agreement.

The preferred payment option is by **Direct Debit** either annually, quarterly, monthly or fortnightly. **Families selecting payment by Direct Debit will also need to complete a Direct Debit Authority Form**, which will continue to operate for the length of time student(s) are enrolled in St Mary's School, Geelong or for any amounts still owing following their departure from the school. Amounts payable are adjusted accordingly each year unless the school receives written advice to change your current fee commitment agreement.

Alternatively, families selecting to make a **one off, lump sum, full payment at the beginning of the year can do so by cash, credit card or EFT Transfer prior to 28 February, 2024.**

Families unable to comply with Direct Debit or Lump Sum payment options can request an appointment with the Principal to **organise a Private Fee Arrangement** and complete the necessary forms.

School Fee statements will be issued each term or as requested by families. For families choosing a Private Fee Arrangement, all payments will be required by the due date stated on each term account. Families that do not pay their school fees in full by the due date will be required to enter into a regular payment arrangement using the School's Direct Debit facility.

If school fees are not paid, and there is no approved payment arrangement, your child(ren)'s enrolment will be reviewed. Legal advice may also be sought for outstanding accounts to be forwarded to a commercial collection agency with any additional collection costs (if applicable) payable by the family.

Goods and Services Tax (GST): Education Curriculum is GST exempt, and as such GST does not apply to School Fees and Levies. However other activities of a recreational nature (e.g. Food on School Camps) do attract GST and will be charged accordingly.

Rebates: Any student commencing or leaving during the school year will receive rebates as per the Principal's discretion. *Please note: usually no adjustment is made in relation to the Building Levy with the full amount due each year unless approved by the Principal.*

Variation of Fees (concessions): MACS introduced a **Concessional Fee Policy** in 2022 which is available on the school's website or from the school office. Families can apply for an adjustment (concession) to school fees in 2024 by completing the **MACS Concessional Fee Application Form**, also available on the school's website or from the school office. This form can be lodged at any time during the year for the Principal's consideration. However, it may only apply to the portion of billing calculated from the date of lodgment. *Please note: Concessions do not apply to Camp Fees charged for students in Years 3-6.*

The Victorian Government has announced that funding through their **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)** will **increase in 2024** from \$125 to **\$150 per eligible primary student**. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions/incursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child(ren) during the school year. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF in 2024. For more information or to check your eligibility, go to <https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>. Application forms are available on the school's website or from the school office to complete and lodge for the 2024 school year. Successful applicants will also be eligible to lodge the **MACS Concessional Fee Application Form** under Policy Clause 1.1.2.

We appreciate your support in this matter and look forward to continuing a strong relationship with parents/guardians/carers in the education of your child(ren).