



# ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

ABN 40 578 109 371

66-68 Little Myers Street, Geelong VIC 3220

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## YEAR 2023 SCHOOL FEES & LEVIES

Dear Families,

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, 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 advise from our governing body, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and consultation between the Principal and our MACS Business Manager, the annual amounts have now been finalised with the following approved as the **Fee & Levy charges for 2023**:

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| ▪ Family Fee    | \$1,850.00 |
| ▪ Building Levy | 365.00     |
|                 | <hr/>      |
|                 | \$2,215.00 |

### ADDITIONAL CHARGES (PER CHILD):

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| ▪ Activity & Event Levy (All Students)       | 15.00  |
| ▪ Stationery & Materials Levy (All Students) | 135.00 |
| ▪ Technology Levy (All Students)             | 85.00  |
| ▪ Chromebook Levy (Yrs 3-6)                  | 50.00  |
| ▪ Sacramental Levy (Yrs 3, 4 & 6)            | 25.00  |
| ▪ Swimming Levy (Yrs Foundation-4)           | 80.00  |
| ▪ Camp Fee – 2 days/1 night (Yrs 3&4)        | 180.00 |
| ▪ Camp Fee – 3 days/2 nights (Yrs 5&6)       | 285.00 |

There are three (3) compulsory components to school fees & levies:

1. **Family Fee** - \$1,850.00 per family per year: The Family Fee 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** - \$365.00 per family per year. The Building Levy 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 to the School Building Fund would be tax deductible. Please contact the school for more information*).
3. **Additional Charges** (per student):
  - The **Stationery Levy & Technology Levy** are charged annually **per student** to assist with the cost of text books, stationery & classroom materials, IT hardware upgrades, software & licensing.
  - The **Chromebook Levy** was a newly introduced levy in 2022 to be charged annually **per student in Years 3-6**. It is used to provide a dedicated Chromebook device to each student for use in class and to assist with any future remote learning or at home tasks. **This device remains the property of the school at all times.**
  - The **Activity & Event Levy** is charged annually **per student** to cover a student's involvement in activities where they create a hand-made 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).**
  - The **Sacramental Program** is conducted for students within Years 3, 4 & 6 each year (*Reconciliation, First Eucharist/Holy Communion and Confirmation, respectively*) and a levy is charged 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).

- The **Swimming Program** is a **compulsory** eight (8) day program for **all students in Foundation – Year 4** with a levy per student charged 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 **overnight camp** (2 days/1 night)
  - \*\*Students in **Years 5 & 6** participate in a **two (2) night camp** (3 days/2 nights)

**Annual Fees & Levies** are billed to all families at the start of the School Year with payment options through the school's preferred option of **Direct Debit** either annually, quarterly, monthly or fortnightly. Alternatively, families selecting to make a **one off, lump sum, full payment at the beginning of the year can do so by cash, cheque, credit card or EFT Transfer prior to 28 February, 2023.**

If you are unable to comply with either of these methods of payment you are asked to make an appointment with the Principal to **organise a Private Fee Arrangement**. Please note: *Private Fee Arrangements are reviewed each year.*

**NEW FAMILIES to the school will need to complete a Fee Commitment Agreement** to indicate their payment method and return completed forms to the school as soon as possible **but no later than their child(ren) commencing:**

- **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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month February to November), **Fortnightly** (20 payments per year from mid-February to early November)
- **LUMP SUM:** (full payment) by 28 February 2023
- **PRIVATE FEE ARRANGEMENT:** A meeting with the Principal is required to discuss and approve this arrangement which will be reviewed each year.

**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 you have children attending St Mary's Primary School with the amount payable adjusted accordingly each year unless the school receives written advice to the contrary. Please note: *Families who request individual split billing will have their payments also adjusted accordingly.*

**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 is charged accordingly.

**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 in 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'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 payable if applicable.

**Rebates:** The Family Fee will be rebated accordingly for any family commencing or leaving during the school year with individual student charges adjusted per Principal's advice. Please note: usually no adjustment is made in relation to the Building Levy with the full amount due each year unless by the Principal's discretion.

**Variation of Fees (concessions):** MACS introduced a **Concessional Fee Policy** in 2022 with the policy available on the school's website or from the school office. Families can apply for an adjustment (concession) to school fees in 2023 by completing the **MACS Concessional Fee Application Form**, also available on the school's website or from the school office, and lodging for the Principal's consideration any time during the year. Please note: *Concessions do not apply to Camp Fees charged for Yrs 3&4 and Yrs 5&6.*

From 2020 - 2023, the Victorian Government is investing an additional \$160.9 million for the **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)**. This funding provides a **\$125 payment 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 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 2023. For more information or to check your eligibility, go to <https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>. Application forms are also available on the school's website or from the school office to complete and lodge for the 2023 school year

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).