



School Fees and Charges Policy 2021

St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School (“St Mary of the Cross”) is a School which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), where formation and education are based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and where the teachers are outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life

Delegation to Set and Vary Fees

The Principal has delegated power to set and vary fees of St Mary of the Cross.

Setting School Fees, Levies and Ad Hoc Charges

St Mary of the Cross’s procedure for setting school fees, levies and ad hoc charges recognises the significant contribution that St Mary of the Cross makes to the cost of education through the generation of private income that includes the payment of fees by families.

St Mary of the Cross sets and varies fees, levies and ad hoc according to criteria that represent a thorough and transparent assessment of the internal and external factors influencing costs and the families’ ability to pay.

FFPOS are not funded by Australian or State recurrent grant funding. FFPOS student fees should set at local student fees, plus Australian and State government funding amounts and other overhead costs relating to FFPOS.

Fees for FFPOS must not be subsidised by recurrent grant or private income received for/from local students.

St Mary of the Cross fees and levies are accessible in a variety of ways, including the School website at www.smocptcook.catholic.edu.au.

St Mary of the Cross communication/strategy plan makes provision for the development and review of strategies for the dissemination of information about its fees and levies. Fees, Levies and charges are finalised in term four of each year, after consultation with the school accountant, the Leadership Team and the School Advisory Council. They are then published on our website and emailed to parents.

Advice to Families, Invoicing and Collection of Fees and Levies

St Mary of the Cross invoicing cycle and invoicing throughout the school year is as follows:

- Invoices are emailed to parents in the first or second week of February
- Statements are emailed to parents on the 5th of each month after that

St Mary of the Cross responsible for its own debt collection throughout the school year.

St Mary of the Cross admin staff will make every effort to help families understand their obligation to pay fees and levies.

St Mary of the Cross will discuss payment of school fees and levies, and establish a payment method with families at the time of student enrolment.

The preferred method of payment is direct debit, established as part of student enrolment prior to commencing at the school.

Recovery of unpaid fees, particularly if recovery involves legal action, will be approached humanely and sensitively to protect the student as much as possible from the public embarrassment that could arise.

All collection approaches to families will be based on appropriate pastoral procedures.

A judgment by the Principal as to whether families are unable to pay because of their financial situation will err on the side of leniency.

Fee Remissions and Concessions

St Mary of the Cross will provide fee remissions/concessions to families in need, including students who hold an Health Care Card (HCC).

The MACS Board has delegated the power to provide fee remissions and/or concessions (as applicable) to the Principal of St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School.

Refer to the St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School Concessional School Fees Policy for further information.

Procedures

Setting and Varying Schools Fees, levies and ad hoc charges

School fees and levies will be reviewed and set annually, in sufficient time to advise School families of the following year's fees and levies

When setting School fees and levies, the Principal will consider recurrent fees and levies to assist in meeting the operating expenses of the School, and capital fees to assist in the purchase of assets and/or repayment of loans for capital purposes.

Where the school accepts enrolment of FFPOS, separate fees and levies will be set for FFPOS.

Billing Fees, Levies and Fee Concessions/Remissions

Fee and levy billing and application of fee concessions/remissions are processed wholly within the School's accounting system, in accordance with the School's billing cycle.

Initial Invoice:	1st or 2nd week of school:	School fees, Capital Levy, Student Levy
Monthly	5th day of the month	School fees, Capital Levy, Student Levy

Fees and levies are billed in full for all students, with any fee concessions or remissions applied to the full fee or levy charged.

St Mary of the Cross follows the procedures detailed in the St Mary of the Cross Primary School Concessional Fee Policy to determine appropriate fee concessions or remissions.

Collection of Fees, Levies and Ad Hoc Charges

The Principal of St Mary of the Cross will establish a payment method with families at the time of student enrolment.

The preferred method of payment of school fees, levies and charges is direct debit, established at the time of student enrolment.

Where payment is made in cash, or on request, the School will issue a School accounting system generated receipt.

St Mary of the Cross will issue periodic statements (at least monthly) to families, to assist with fee collection.

If a family fails to keep up with their payment commitment, the Principal will bring the matter to their attention promptly and seek resolution. Debt recovery process may need to be initiated, including follow up phone calls, letters and formal debt recovery.

St Mary of the Cross will follow up debt recovery in a sensitive, discreet and confidential manner. Parents/guardians will be invited to discuss the matter with the Principal.

Whilst no child will be denied access to a Catholic education due to genuine financial hardship, when families decide on a Catholic school for their children they knowingly take on additional financial responsibilities associated with school fees, which must be honoured in accordance with normal commercial practices.