ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL FEES POLICY

Once a child becomes a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, the parents and the Church have a commitment towards its new member. One of the obligations is to give the child the opportunity to be educated as a Catholic. Traditionally in Australia, the majority of baptised children have been given this formation through Catholic schooling. In this way, the Church exercises its commitment and responsibility.

Catholic education is based on an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony ... Of its nature, [the Catholic school] guides men and women to achieve human and Christian perfection and helps them to become mature in their faith.

The Catholic school is not simply an alternative to a Government school. It is different because it is Catholic: it must offer the authentic Catholic vision.

Catholic Schools are funded through a combination of Commonwealth & State Government Grants, School fees and fund raising. Each element of the funding is vital and the fundraising aspect serves to alleviate the need for high capital fees from parents.

Our parish & school community try to ensure the benefits of a Catholic education are available to all Catholic children by keeping our school fees to the minimum and implementing a “Family Fee” rather than a student fee.

St Thomas More School has also eliminated the student levy for curriculum materials which in other schools is due for each child at the beginning of the school year. Levy costs are incorporated into the school fees on a ‘one child’ and ‘two or more child’ basis to alleviate the high costs at the beginning of the school year.

Parental contribution, needed for the maintenance of Catholic schools, is held at a level which enables parents to exercise a real choice of schooling without undue financial hardship. At primary level, a family fee is set to reduce the burden on larger families. Consideration is given for families who are experiencing real hardship with the remittance of payments.

A wide range of flexibility exists for the payment of School fees at St Thomas More school:

- Families may choose to pay the annual fee ‘up-front’ in Term 1 and earn a $30.00 uniform voucher for this up-front payment
- Fees may be paid per Term and are due and payable by the third week of each term
- Families may nominate to pay their fees in instalments – weekly, fortnightly or monthly
- Payment can be made using cash, cheque, direct debit, EFTPOS or Credit Card payments

All families are expected to fulfil their obligation of fee payment. In the case of outstanding fees a process of reminder notices and letters and an interview with the Principal and Parish Priest is undertaken. If fees are still not forthcoming accounts are then referred to a debt collection agency. This final step is implemented in justice to the families who meet their financial commitment to the school.

The School fees are reviewed annually in consultation with the School Advisory Committee. An annual increase of $5.00 - $10.00 per term has usually covered the normal increases in costs for the school.