



School fees policy

Rationale

Catholic schools share a role in preaching the Good News, 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

Providing access to quality Catholic schooling is an integral part of the pastoral and educational mission of the Church in the Diocese of Toowoomba. The continuing provision of quality Catholic schooling is sustained largely by government funding and supplemented by a parent/carer contribution through school fees and levies.

Catholic schools are called to provide exemplary Catholic education which is open and accessible to all students whose parents 'identify with and seek the values of Christ' (Catholic Schools of the 21st Century, 2001). Catholic schools are guided by Catholic social teaching and practice that is informed by legislative requirements, educational philosophy and societal expectations.

Values

Catholic social teachings of inclusion and equity inform this policy and its resulting procedures and guidelines.

Policy statement

All Catholic schools will set fees and levies in accordance with the Diocesan School fee guidelines.

Parents/carers are responsible for the payment of school fees and levies as agreed during the enrolment process or in subsequent written agreements with the school principal.

Enrolment will not be refused due to a genuine inability to pay the prescribed fee.

Consequences

- Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office will develop school fee and levy guidelines to assist schools in the setting of fees and levies. These guidelines will be updated annually.
- Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office will develop diocesan-wide school fee collection procedures including an agreed procedure for fee concessions.
- Fee concessions are to be approved by the principal and reviewed annually.
- Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office will have an agreed model for the equitable allocation and sharing of resources across the Diocese.
- School fees and levies are to be included when ascertaining the level of resourcing available to individual schools.
- School fees, levies and payment requirements are to be made explicit during the enrolment procedure.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba