

# CATHOLIC SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNTS



**For families with more than one child in primary and/or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, attend a country school, or hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card.**

## Why do Catholic schools have fees?

To provide quality learning environments, Catholic schools have fees to help meet the shortfall in Government funding. Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible.

The term 'school fees' includes tuition fees and levies. Each school assesses the school levies necessary to meet their individual school and community operation requirements.

In doing this they are firstly guided by the diocesan tuition fee set by Catholic Education Services.

## How do I enrol my child in a Catholic school?

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Principal of their preferred Catholic school to find out about their enrolment procedures and what information is required to complete the enrolment application (eg: birth certificate, baptism certificate, school reports and academic records if applicable). Enrolment applications are accepted at any time.

Schools may not always be able to accept every family who applies, due to the availability of places.

In these cases, the Principal is guided by the Cairns Catholic Education enrolment policy that has been set by the Diocesan Education Board of Governance. Many schools have waiting lists if this occurs.

## Multi-student/school family discount

Families with more than one child in the same or other primary or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese receive fee discounts for the second, third and subsequent children.

This information is collected by the school at the time of enrolment and the discount is automatically applied.

## Country area discount

Schools in more remote, country areas also qualify for a further Country discount. This discount automatically applies at the time of enrolment. Country schools are listed on the Cairns Catholic Education schedule of fees.

## Pensioner and health care card holder fee discount

In addition to these family and country school discounts that have historically been offered, Cairns Catholic Education has introduced means-tested concession card discounts.

Parents/carers with a means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card are automatically eligible to receive a 70% discount to tuition fees (does not apply to school levies). Card holders are required to advise the school of their concession card at enrolment or when the card is gained. Once the card is sighted by the school's administration, tuition fees will be adjusted.

## Special consideration

Families without a means-tested concession card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their school Principal or Parish Priest to apply for special consideration.

No child will be denied enrolment due to financial difficulty. The school Principal or Parish Priest will treat the situation with understanding, sensitivity and confidentiality.

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