



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



3rd December 2025

## CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS and SCHOOL TUITION FEES and LEVIES 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Carers,

I am writing in regard to:

- Child Safety Standards
- Annual Tuition Fees for 2026
- Payment methods

### CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

As part of the Child Safety Standards Stella Maris Catholic Primary School continues to be committed to providing a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive and supportive for all students, staff, parents and other members of the school community.

We acknowledge and value that Parents, Guardians and Carers are crucial contributors in the life of our school and play a key role in the education of their children. As such, it is imperative that they act, at all times, in the best interest of all students, their families, staff members and the broader school community.

It is the intention of Stella Maris Catholic Primary School to provide all parents with clear guidelines regarding the conduct expected of them whilst on the school premises, communicating with staff, engaging in school related activities, attending school events or in any other way representing the school. Parents are expected to uphold the school's core values and expectations at all times.

- If you would like to be a volunteer at Stella Maris you must **read, sign and return** the Child Safety Code of Conduct with your Working With Children Check.
- If you haven't got a Working With Children Check please apply through this website:  
<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

### ANNUAL TUITION FEES and LEVIES 2026

The educational environment of Stella Maris continues to change and grow to meet our enrolment numbers and needs. In 2026 we will have approximately 740 students. We will continue to offer a fantastic, fast developing school environment, both inside and out. I want to provide you with details of changes in tuition fees for the 2026 academic year.

A decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an education experience that supports every student to flourish. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year. These decisions are made under instructions from the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) and in consultation with the School Advisory Council.

The cost of operating our school is increasing in multiple areas including wages, insurance premiums, regulatory and compliance costs, risk management, teacher resources and professional learning.

Our tuition fees at Stella Maris are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

To ensure that we can continue to deliver a personalised, high-quality education that is responsive to the diverse interests and academic, social and emotional needs of our students, it is necessary to periodically review and adjust our fees.

As a result, the Stella Maris annual tuition fee for 2026 is outlined below. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain committed to keeping tuition fees as low and affordable as possible, and to working closely with our community to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. I am grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our school.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Harrison  
Principal

### DETAILS of SCHOOL FEES 2026

The fees cover both tuition fees and levies.

- A **Family Fee of \$1930**. This is a family fee, in 2026 it is not charged per individual child.
- The **Capital Fee is \$475**. This is a family fee, it is not charged per individual child.
- The **Curriculum Levy** is an individual Levy (charged to each student) and covers stationery, books, library, technology expenses, ICT program licences, art materials, music and PE materials and other classroom incidentals. It also includes camp, excursion or incursion costs for 2026. Please note the year 3&4 students will again have a day camp.

The Individual Student <b>Curriculum Levy</b> is a tiered system	<b>Student Levy</b>	<b>Estimated Camp Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Individual Student Curriculum Levy for Foundation to Year 2	\$610.00		\$610.00
Individual Student Curriculum Levy for Year 3 or Year 4	\$625.00	\$110	\$735.00
Individual Student Curriculum Levy for Year 5	\$645.00	\$430	\$1075.00
Individual Student Curriculum Levy for Year 6	\$675.00	\$430	\$1105.00

Please note, in 2027 we will change to a tiered family fee in which the total a family pays will be adjusted according to how many children they have enrolled at the school. MACS believe this is fairer for all families and ensures our school remains on a strong and sustainable footing.

This model is designed to balance being fair and sustainable for our school without placing an undue burden on families.

I am committed to keeping you informed and supported through any future changes and will be in touch with more information about this change during 2026

### Eligibility for Concessional School Fees:

In the 2022 school year a Concessional Fee Policy was introduced to Catholic Primary Schools, this gives eligible families the opportunity to apply for a review of their fees based on the below criteria:

1. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage
2. Holding a HCC and eligible for CSEF
3. Experiencing severe financial hardship
4. Holding a DVA Gold Card
5. Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
6. HSS who attend a MACS primary school on a part time basis, who meet any of the criteria detailed

If you believe you are eligible to apply for the concessional fees based on the above criteria, please contact our office for additional information and to discuss the application process.

If your application is approved and you are confirmed eligible, below is an outline of the student fees, excluding camp:

1. 1 child: \$15 per child per week, direct debit (\$810 per annum or \$202.50 per term)
2. 2 children: \$23 for the family per week, direct debit (\$1,240 per annum, or \$310 per term)
3. 3+ children: \$30 for the family per week, direct debit (\$1,620 per annum, or \$405 per term)

## **PAYMENT METHODS**

There are several ways to pay your school fees and levies:

- A one-off payment of your fees and levies in full
- Three equal payments - terms one, two and three (preferred option)
- By monthly direct debit – A **new** Direct Debit Authority needs to be **renewed** at the start of each year.
- Bank Transfer/Direct Deposit – Bank details can be found on the bottom of your statement
- EFTPOS at school
- Cash
- By a negotiated payment plan

Please contact Myself, Mrs Rose Mary Pascal - [rpascal@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rpascal@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au) or on 0473 486 005 at the School Office if you have any questions or to organise these arrangements with you.

Any family that encounters financial difficulty in meeting payments are asked to discuss this matter with Rose, or myself. Please don't hesitate to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Harrison**  
**PRINCIPAL**