



St Francis de Sales
COLLEGE

Fee FAQs

When do I need to start paying school fees?

The College Fee policy requests that all families commence a regular fee payment within a fortnight of a student commencing at the College. Continuing families will need to have commenced a repayment program by the end of February each year.

How often are fees charged?

The College charges all fees to families once per year in February. These charges include all of your child's fees for the entire year. This allows for you to budget your payments between February and November with no unknowns.

What other costs should my family budget for?

Bus tickets for travel on our College buses are available for purchase from College Reception. VET courses and the consumables involved will be charged to families via the provider. Stationery for Years 7-12 can be purchased via an online service annually in November and delivered to family's homes in January ready for the new school year. The Devon Uniform shop is onsite at 2 Hampden Rd Mount Barker and opening hours will suit all families.

What is the easiest way to pay?

The College's preferred payment is a direct debit directly from the families' bank account to the College bank account. The College may vary the direct debit agreement to cover outstanding fees by giving you fourteen (14) days written notice. Cash, cheque and eftpos payments are also accepted at College Reception and Bpay facilities are available. We do not accept American Express Cards.

How can I stay within Fee Policy?

By making either a full payment of fees in March to take advantage of discounts available to early payers, or by equal monthly payments that clear the account by November each year, which must have commenced by February or within two weeks of students first day at the College.

When should I review my payments?

As children progress through the sub schools at the College their fees do increase. Families are expected to increase their repayment amounts each February when they receive their annual account. It is advised to keep your payments going all year and this provides a buffer as your children progress. Parents should be aware of distinctive trips in both Year 7 (Canberra – Remembrance Day) and Year 9 (Coorong camping experience) that attract higher costs due to duration and airfares.

What if I qualify for School Card?

School card is a support payment low income families receive annually. It must be applied for at the commencement of each school year. You will still be charged full fees but the College will apply any approved discount once confirmation is received from DECS. This can sometimes take 6 months. More information can be found at School Card website sa.gov.au school card applications

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-skills-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme/school-card-application-forms>

Where do my fees go?

Although we receive funding from both the State and Federal Governments, the Catholic sector needs to fund their own capital expenses. This means we maintain and build our own school sites. Our College relies on each family making their payments in full and on time to maintain the buildings and resources our children use. The compulsory Capital Levy paid by families meets our loan repayments annually. The voluntary Building Fund donation, which can be claimed as a tax deduction is used in the loan and grant application process to qualify for new projects. By your prompt payment of these fees you help place the College in the best financial position for maintaining a modern and contemporary learning space.

What is the Building Fund?

The College asks all families to make a donation to the Building Fund. The Building Fund is dedicated to the improvement of existing Buildings and new projects. Projects planned from 2017 onwards are the Sports Centre and primary school redevelopment. Any donations made to the fund are tax deductible and the College provides letters for tax purposes in July.

What is the Capital Levy?

The Capital Levy is a compulsory levy to assist the College advance its capital works program and master plan. Government Grants do not cover many building programs and building updates. Substantial loans need to be taken for major projects including the Sports Centre, however to service the loans other income needs to be generated, so this family levy will assist with the repayments required.

What if I can't pay?

Your commitment to full payment of fees is anticipated by the College when you accept your place at enrolment. If your financial situation changes, you need to advise the College as soon as you do not meet your promised repayments. Our Catholic mission is to support families through difficult times. When no contact is made with the College it will be assumed that you do have the ability to pay and this will place you outside of the Fee Policy. The College does use the services of a collection agency to recover debts not paid. The College charges an administration fee of \$50 in July annually to those accounts that are not meeting their required payments.

Can we request split accounts?

The College does not produce manual split accounts for families; it is an expectation that parents will negotiate payment of full school fees outside of the College. Both enrolling parents are responsible for full payment of fees.

How do I calculate what we owe each year?

Fees are available on the College website and you will need to check the year level rate of each of your children. Discounts only apply to the Tuition fee portion of your fees. Every student must pay all of their Resource Fees, Camps and Retreat costs. Every Family must also pay the Capital Levy. This covers the everyday running costs of the College.

How do I qualify for any discounts?

A sister school discount of \$180 per family is for families with a sibling currently enrolled at St Catherine's at Stirling and St Josephs at Murray Bridge. Please contact the College if this applies to your family. An early payment discount of \$180 per student will be applied to College accounts that are paid in full by 31 March. Early payment discount is not applicable to already reduced accounts ie; school card discount. Graduating year 12 students will also gain initial membership to the St Francis de Sales Old Scholars Association.

What if we leave?

All students must give one full terms notice in writing when they withdraw. The College commits significant funds and planning in advance for every students place at the College and costs need to be covered. Fees will be charged on a pro-rata basis of attendance and \$1000 late notice of withdrawal fee will apply if we have not had one terms written notice. The outstanding fees are due 14 days from date of withdrawal.