

20 July 2026

Dear parents and caregivers,

### 2027 Tuition Fees – Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

The annual review has occurred to determine the level of school tuition fees in 2027. We advise that tuition fees for our primary and secondary schools in the Cairns Diocese in 2027 will increase by 4.1%, in line with the current inflation rate.

The decision to raise fees is not taken for granted or made without careful consideration of the resource needs of schools, balanced against the capacity of families to contribute.

For Catholic schools, the need to charge tuition fees and levies arises from the lower funding that is provided by governments for students in non-government schools. Tuition fees are used by schools to meet ongoing expenditure of the school. A minor portion of the tuition fee is also used to fund the purchase of land for existing and new schools and accommodation for teaching staff in regional and remote areas.

The 2027 tuition fee schedule for families with children attending primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Cairns is attached. Sibling discounts will continue to be offered to families with more than one child enrolled in one or more Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, at 15% for two students, 30% for three students and no additional tuition fee for four or more students.

The 2027 tuition fee increase applies to tuition fees only. Schools and colleges charge various levies to support specific initiatives or activities within each school or college community. As these costs vary from school to school, these levies are set individually by the schools and colleges. Refer to individual school and college websites for levies detail.

I appreciate that some families may face financial hardship in meeting fees and levies. It is important that families who want to access Catholic Education for their children are not excluded because they do not have the means to pay fees. It is our policy and practice to assist any family in this situation. Ongoing enrolment and continuity of student learning is more important to us than the payment of fees and levies by families facing financial hardship. It is therefore equally important that those families who can afford to pay their fees do so, so that we can continue to fund necessary resourcing, and support those in need and reach out to the disadvantaged.

The tuition fee discount for eligible parents/carers with a means-tested eligible Australian Government Concession Card will continue at the rate of 70% in 2027.

Families without an eligible Concession Card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should continue to apply for special consideration by speaking with their school Principal or Parish Priest who will treat the situation with understanding, sensitivity, and confidentiality.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to providing a Catholic education for your student(s). We are proud of the quality of education provided in our schools and we are keenly aware and grateful of how much parental support we receive, both through payment of tuition fees and levies and so many other forms of generous help.

With best wishes,



**Diarmuid O'Riordan**  
Executive Director

