



FEE POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College is a Catholic school and as such it seeks to provide places for all boys who are committed to respecting the Gospel values and the Catholic philosophy of the College as well as the College's educational values. The enrolment policy of St Patrick's College is open and inclusive. Blessed Edmund Rice's mission calls us to reach out to boys on the margins to provide an education that liberates them in our society.

Mission Statement

In the Spirit of Edmund Rice we welcome all boys who wish to honour our tradition, commit themselves to our values and contribute to our story.
2006-2010 Strategic Plan

College Values

St Patrick's College values justice, respect, responsibility, compassion and honesty while honouring diversity.
2006-2010 Strategic Plan

Scripture

Rich and poor have something in common: the Lord God made them all.
Proverbs 22:2

Policy

St Patrick's College will establish a fee structure that ensures that its educational mission is facilitated and financial viability is maintained while ensuring that no student is disadvantaged in seeking enrolment or continuing his enrolment because of his parents' inability to pay tuition fees.

Guidelines

1. Fee schedule

The setting of the fee schedule will take into account:

- the College's Mission Statement
- the policies of Edmund Rice Education Australia, the Diocese of Ballarat and Catholic Education Commission of Victoria
- the level of federal and state government funding
- the capacity of parents to pay
- the needs of resourcing a broad curriculum
- the appropriate recognition and remuneration of staff
- the maintenance needs of our heritage environment
- the financial viability of the College

The fee schedule will be proposed to the College Board by the Finance Committee and forwarded for ratification to Edmund Rice Education Australia. Families will be notified of the schedule of tuition fees and other charges in December.

Accounts will be rendered on a regular basis. Families may elect to pay in a lump sum, by credit card, cheque, electronic funds transfer or cash or by regular automatic funds transfer over ten or twelve months. All families who are able to pay fees are expected to pay the amount as advised, by the due date, as a matter of justice to other parents and students.

2. Fee Alleviation

The College Budget will be set to ensure that alleviation is available to those families experiencing difficulty in meeting their financial commitments to the College. Fee alleviation is at the discretion of the Headmaster and will be dealt with in confidence. Alleviation is normally applied for on an annual basis.

3. Family Discounts

Discounts are automatically given to families with two or more sons at the College. The Finance Committee will determine the family discount rate each year.

4. Bursaries

On the basis of family circumstances, a bursary may be offered prior to a student's commencement at the College to cover some or all of the costs of his schooling. Any such arrangements will be clearly documented for the protection of the rights of the family and of the College. The Headmaster will be responsible for the approval of any bursaries.

5. Indigenous Students

As a general rule, indigenous students attend the College without paying tuition fees or the capital levy. Every effort is made to source funds to cover such bursaries from government and other agencies such as Abstudy, the Bigsteps Programme, Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme, the Opening the Doors Foundation and the football-based Kickstart Programme.

6. Scholarships

The College offers scholarships to recognise and reward excellence and promote the virtues of positive role models. Scholarships are another incentive to families of modest means to apply for enrolment at the College.

The program identifies students who display and have the potential to further develop characteristics of excellence in areas such as academic studies, sport and the arts. Scholarships also offer a medium with which to compete with other schools that are attempting to attract some of the College's positive role models. Scholarships are funded by the Old Collegians Association, the College Foundation, various benefactors and by the College itself by foregoing recurrent income. Any scholarship arrangements will be clearly documented for the protection of the rights of the family and of the College. The document 'Guidelines for Scholarships at St Patrick's College' contains specific details regarding scholarship categories, selection criteria and funding sources.

7. Fee Collection

If instalments are not met, contact will be made with the family through a series of letters and telephone calls. All attempts at contact will be noted electronically as will any discussions between the College and the family. If there is no satisfaction by these means, the account will be placed in the hands of a recognised debt collection agency.

8. Fee Write-offs

When it becomes apparent that there is little or no hope of collecting fees because of family circumstances or lack of contact, the Finance Committee will recommend to the Board that fees be written off as bad debts. This will be factored in to the College budget on an annual basis.

9. Payment Incentives

Many families choose to pay over ten or twelve months. The upfront payment of fees assists all families of the College: cashflow and investments benefit. Accordingly the College offers discounts for the full payment of tuition fees and capital levy before March 1.

Status of Policy: Ratified by the College Board, July 2013

Review: 2018