

31 October, 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Each school year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle reviews the fees for students in our diocesan schools for the coming year. By far the greater part of our schools' funding now comes from State and Commonwealth government funding, but it is noted with gratitude the commitment and continuing financial contribution of parents and parish communities that is so essential to fill the gap between the funds provided by government and the actual cost of running our schools.

This letter is to inform you of the fee arrangements for 2018 which represent a 2.25% increase of 2017 fees. The following rates and discounts have been reviewed by the Diocesan Finance Council (DFC) and the Catholic Schools Council. Upon the advice of the DFC and the Diocesan Executive, they have been approved by Bishop Wright.

The school fees are constituted by 3 components:

1. Diocesan Tuition Fees
2. Individual School Resource and Service Fees
3. Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DFSBL)

1. Diocesan Tuition Fees 2018

In 2018 the Diocesan Tuition Fees, full rate, will be:

Kinder to Year 6	\$ 1,233	(increase of \$27.00p.a. or \$0.65 per school week from 2017)
Years 7 to 10	\$ 1,698	(increase of \$36.00p.a. or \$0.88 per school week from 2017)
Years 11 to 12	\$ 2,559	(increase of \$57.00p.a. or \$1.39 per school week from 2017)

In 2018, the Family discount on Diocesan Tuition Fees, full rate, will be:

1 child family	0% - full rate to be applied
2 child family	10% - each child
3 child family	20% - each child
4 child family	40% - each child
5+ child family	50% - each child

2. Individual School Resource and Service Fees

These are fees set by individual schools and can cover a range of costs including the supply of resources such as texts, school supplies, exercise books, subject levies, technology, excursion costs etc. The cost and nature of the fees can vary between schools and they will be set out in the Parent Handbook provided by the school and itemised in the school fee account from the school.

3. Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DFSBL)

The DFSBL is charged to the oldest child for each family. The DFSBL is pooled to contribute towards past, present and future costs for building projects across all existing schools, and for the development of new catholic schools.

This DFSBL contribution from families is spent on major refurbishment and capital works in existing schools, including classroom replacement, toilet facilities, specialist rooms, and playground areas. In new schools the DFSBL provides

all capital works including administration block, general purpose learning areas, chapel, specialist rooms, toilet facilities, and non-teaching spaces including playground and oval spaces.

The DFSBL in 2018 will be \$750 per family. The contribution is reviewed, recommended and approved in the same fashion as mentioned earlier of the Tuition Fees and Discounts.

4. Diocesan Pastoral Contribution

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle consists of parishes, schools, CatholicCare Social Services, St Nicholas Early Education and the Curia offices. The Diocesan offices exist to support the work of Parishes and other pastoral ministries that are the responsibility of the Bishop and the diocesan community. There are approximately 160,000 Catholics residing in our diocese.

Since 2017 a voluntary contribution of \$150 per family (\$50 per term) has been sought as a diocesan pastoral contribution. Funds support the ongoing pastoral works of the diocese which include, amongst many initiatives:

- The diocesan pastoral ministries office and the activities of its many advisory councils - the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Adult Faith Formation Council, the Liturgy Council, the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council, the Social Justice Council and the Diocesan Council of Ministry with Young People.
- The provision of chaplains ministering in the following areas – Newcastle University, Newcastle Port, Prisons, Hospitals and CatholicCare Social Services.
- Family Community Faith Coordinators who work to reach out to and connect families with their local parish and school.
- Pastoral Coordinators who work in those parishes without a resident Parish Priest.

Fee Reductions

To assist families with limited financial resources, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle offer a lower tuition fee to 'means tested' low income families such as Health Care and Pension Card holders. This rate is 50% of the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate for each child. This discount applies only to the Diocesan Tuition Fee, not to the DFSBL or other resource and service fees charged by each individual school.

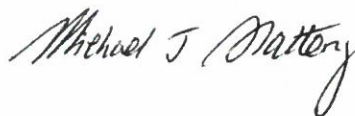
Please note, however, that it is our policy that financial hardship should not prevent a child from attending a Catholic School and no child will be denied a Catholic Education because of a family's genuine inability to pay the required school fees. This does not apply only to the eligible Health Care/Pension Card holders mentioned above. Any family experiencing financial difficulties is entitled to fee assistance. The Principal of the school can be contacted to discuss such situations.

Together with parents, clergy and school staff, we are committed to offering the children and young people in this diocese, schools in which their faith can be nurtured in outstanding learning environments. We seek to assist young people to realise their full human potential, spiritual, intellectual, physical and social. We value the opportunity to work in partnership with you to that end, and thank you for your continuing support of Catholic Education in this Diocese.

Yours sincerely



Most Reverend William Wright
BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



Dr Michael Slattery
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS



Pastoral Works

IN THE DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



www.mn.catholic.org.au



Bishop Bill's Message

Pope Francis writes in *The Joy of the Gospel*, "I want a poor church that is for the poor because they have much to teach us. It's fundamental to our faith. We are called to see Christ in the poor and minister to him there. We must allow our own hearts to be touched by them, to become their friends, to find them beautiful, and to allow them to lead us closer to the heart of the Lord." (198-199)

The Pastoral Contribution Fund is part of our response to the call to put our faith into action. I understand it can be a struggle for families to keep on giving generously but these contributions make a real difference to the lives of those in our diocese.

Thank you for contributing to our chaplains and ministry services while supporting Catholic education for your children.

Most Reverend William Wright,
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

Supporting Pastoral Ministries

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle consists of Parishes, Schools, CatholicCare Social Services, St Nicholas Early Childhood, the Development and Relief Agency and the Chancery Offices. The Chancery Offices exist to support the work of Parishes and other pastoral ministries that are the responsibility of the Bishop and the diocesan community. There are approximately 160,000 Catholics residing in our diocese.

The Bishop supports many pastoral ministries throughout the diocese through the Pastoral Ministries office under the stewardship of Teresa Brierley, Vice Chancellor Pastoral Ministries. As the diocesan local church we are called to live the Good News in a number of areas and the Pastoral Contribution assists in supporting many good works.

The funds support the Pastoral Ministries Office and the activities of the many advisory councils that make up this office - the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Adult Faith Formation Council, the Liturgy Council, the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council, the Social Justice Council and the Diocesan Council of Ministry with Young People.

We have chaplains ministering in the following areas - Newcastle University, the Port, Prisons, Hospitals and CatholicCare, where those who seek pastoral and spiritual care are supported.

These funds also help to support the Refugee Hub at Mayfield which plays an integral role in the settlement of refugees in the Newcastle and Hunter region. By working collaboratively with other service providers, the Refugee Hub walks with refugees to support and empower them on their journey to independence.

Some parishes without a resident priest are served by Parish Leaders and funds are allocated to these roles.

The Levy has enabled us to provide funds to these ministries. Each of us has a responsibility to see the need and respond. Thanks for your response to a need you may not have seen but to which you continue to give generously.

Where does your contribution go?



Apostleship of the Sea

\$49,000

\$101,000

Refugee Service



Chaplains

\$92,000



Liturgy

\$86,000

\$202,000

Faith Formation



Aboriginal Catholic Ministry



\$9,000

Diocesan Pastoral Council

\$41,000



Pastoral Ministries Unit

\$36,000