14 November 2025

To: All 2026 St Patrick's College families.

<u>2026 Tuition Fees and Charges</u>

Dear Families,

The fees and levies charged by the College are influenced by three key factors:

1. The level of Federal and State Government funding received;
2. The number of students enrolled at the College (and the extent to which students, particularly in the senior years, remain enrolled for the full school year); and
3. The College's recurrent cost base including the level of investment, and reinvestment, in the College's buildings and facilities.

Government Funding and the DMI

As explained last year, every independent school receives a level of base government funding that is adjusted according to families' assessed Capacity to Contribute (CTC), determined through the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). Put simply, the DMI reflects the relative wealth of a school's parent cohort. In addition to this base funding, schools receive loadings, additional funding, based on factors that increase a student's educational needs including: Disability (NCCD); Socio-educational disadvantage; and for Indigenous students.

In 2025, St Patrick's DMI increased from 99 to 100, resulting in a reduction of approximately $0.5 million in our base government funding (fees were increased to recover this reduced funding). While there is a one-year moratorium on changes to school DMI scores (meaning no further adjustment until at least 2027), with DMI of 100, the College's base grant funding is reduced by 25.3%, simply because we are a non-government school. Effectively, about half of our tuition fees recover this reduction in base grant funding, bringing the level of funding back to the minimum assessed as necessary to meet students' educational needs.

Independent schools such as St Patrick's play an essential role in the Australian education landscape. Without them, State Governments would need to increase the number of schools they operate by roughly 50%, at a far higher per-student cost. Independent schools therefore not only offer families choice, but also significantly reduce the financial burden on the public education system.

Enrolments and Retention

The number of students enrolled, and whether they remain at the College for the full year, also has a direct impact on funding. Government grants are based on the average of the February and August census counts.

It is pleasing to report that St Patrick's College continues to experience growth in enrolments, reflecting community confidence in the quality and values of the education we provide. We have also seen an increase in the number of boys completing Year 12, which is something we strongly encourage. Remaining through to Year 12 provides not only academic benefits but also vital social, personal, and leadership opportunities that are unique to the final years of secondary school.

Costs and Staffing

The College remains committed to offering an exceptionally broad and rich range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities for boys, which lies at the heart of who we are as a community.

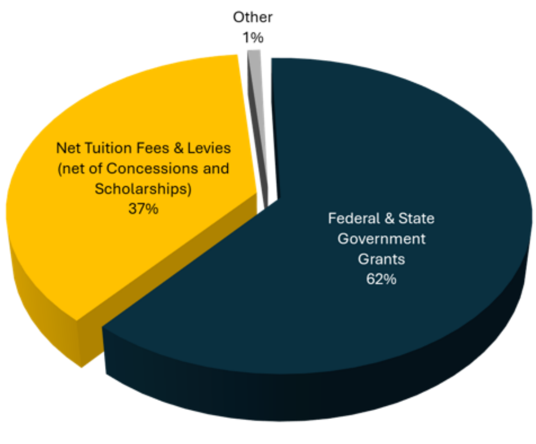
Staffing is our largest cost, representing a little over 71% of recurrent expenditure. Given the significant impact of salaries on our cost base, it is important for families to be aware that the existing industrial agreement covering teaching and non-teaching staff expires at the end of this year.

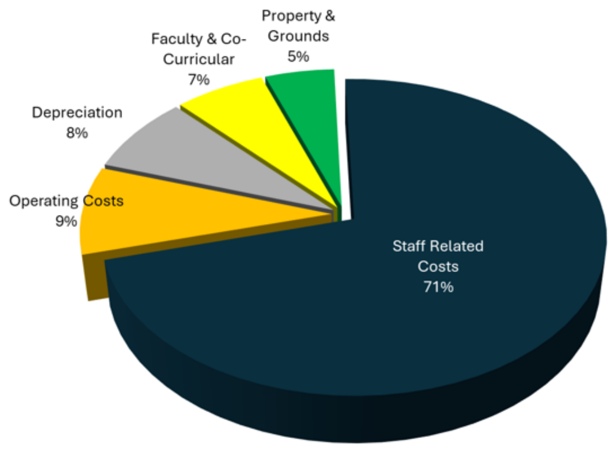
Negotiations for a new agreement are currently underway between the Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA), employees, and the Independent Education Union (IEU), which represents a number of those employees. The VCEA's initial offer included a minimum 7% salary increase, described by the Authority as "the largest single-year pay rise in the last 25 years for Victorian Catholic school staff." The IEU has indicated that it considers the offer inadequate, and negotiations are ongoing. As a result, the process is likely to continue into 2026.

For the purpose of preparing the College's 2026 budget, we have based our expected salary costs on the VCEA's initial offer. Rather than passing the full impact of these projected cost increases to families only through fee increases, the College has reviewed its expenditure and educational offerings to identify savings and efficiencies. Some rationalisation of elective and subject options, particularly in the middle and senior years, has been necessary to ensure sustainability. These changes will modestly reduce staffing requirements (through natural attrition) while maintaining the breadth and quality of education for which St Patrick's is known.

The eventual outcome of the industrial negotiations will, of course, influence staffing costs in future years. Depending on the final agreement reached, additional "above expected" fee increases may be required in future years.

Below are two charts illustrating where the College's revenue comes from and the components of our recurrent expenditure.





2026 Fee Increase

Taking all these factors into account, the base tuition fee increase for 2026 will be 8%. For some families, particularly those transitioning from Year 8 to 9 and Year 10 to 11, due to our stepped fee structure, the percentage change will be higher. The Capital Levy, IT Levy and most Resource Fees will remain unchanged, resulting in the average total charge per student increasing 7.0%.

No new subject levies have been introduced for 2026. The College will continue to apply levies for VCE Outdoor & Environmental Studies and for Rowing. Apart from optional camps and overseas tours, our fees remain highly inclusive of the full range of curricular and co-curricular programs.

Your initial 2026 invoice will be sent via Australia Post in December. Statements are issued monthly showing payments received and any additional charges incurred.

Families are required to pay fees in full, or return the provided payment arrangement form, before students return in 2026, by no later than Tuesday 27 January.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Jirik
Business Manager

2026 ***Tuition Fees and Charges*.**

- ***Tuition and Boarding Fees***

Tuition	Year Level	Boarding Full time	Boarding Weekly (5 nights)	Flexi (per night)
$8,920	7 & 8	$21,180	$18,000	$100
$9,360	9 & 10	$24,160	$20,540	$115
$10,190	11 & 12	$28,170	$23,940	$135

Fees for programs are charged for the full year regardless of whether students sit exams or not, and regardless of completion date. Where students leave during the year a pro rata credit for tuition and of the capital levy will be issued provided four weeks' notice is received in writing; failure to provide four weeks' notice will result in four weeks tuition being withheld from the pro-rate credit.

- ***Capital Levy - $1,150 per family (unchanged since 2024)***

Funds raised from the capital levy are used to maintain and develop new facilities. As this is a compulsory levy no receipt for taxation purposes is available.

The college does have an ATO approved Building Fund, and persons wishing to make a voluntary donation to it will be issued a receipt for taxation purposes. Please contact the Finance Office if you have any questions about this.

- ***Resource Fee***

To facilitate student learning the College makes available a variety of year-level eResources, eTextbooks, and other resources. The following Resource Fee recovers these costs.

Year Level	Fee
7	$330
8	$300
9	$240
10	$180
11	$110
12	$210

- ***Laptop levies (including insurance) - $500 annually of a 3-year cycle.***

Students receive a new laptop in Year 7 and in Year 10. Students keep the old device when the new one is issued in Year 10 and when leaving in Year 12. If a student departs the college during a 3-year cycle they will be charged any outstanding instalments and keep the device as they are only charged annually a third of the full cost to the school.

- ***Specific Subject Levies***

An additional $600 levy applies to the following subjects:
VCE VET Engineering Studies (Units 1/2 and Units 3/4)
VCE Outdoor & Environmental Studies (Units 1/2 and Units 3/4).

- ***Other Charges***
  The above *Tuition Fees and Charges* do not cover optional aspects of the College's program such as private music lessons, rowing, some extra-curricular activities, non-compulsory tours and camps, or damage to college property. These costs will be charged on a separate sundry account which will need to be paid by the relevant due date.

- ***Shamrock Association Fee (Boarding only) - $550 per full-time and weekly boarder***
  This fee is a compulsory charge (so no receipt can be issued for tax purposes) and is specifically used to maintain and develop our boarding facilities.

- ***External VET Charges***
  Parents/Guardians of students who elect to participate in an external VET course will be required to pay the difference between the course cost and the VCEA funding up to a cap. This will appear as an additional levy on your tuition statement once the funding short fall is known, usually during Term 1.

- ***Departure Without Notice Fee***
  Families are reminded that as per the Terms of Enrolment, 4 weeks written notification to the registrar (enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au) is required for a student withdrawing from the College. If such written notice is not received a "Departure Without Notice" fee equivalent to 4 weeks tuition is payable.

- ***Sibling Discounts***
  Family discounts apply where more than one child in a family is concurrently enrolled. The discount applies to tuition fees only.

	2026*
2nd Student	10%
3rd Student	25%
4th and subsequent students	50%

  ***Please note:** the discount will be reducing from 2026. For existing families there will be a three-year grandfathering so the reduced discount will not apply until 2029.

- ***Concessions***
  For families with genuine need for financial assistance there is support available through the college's Foundation, or through means-tested concessions. Families are encouraged to reach out early if their financial situation changes and may need support; please contact Maureen Ralton in the Finance Office.

- ***Health Care Card Holders***
  Parents who hold a valid Health Care Card are entitled to receive a credit of $800 off their fee account, made up as follows:
  Camps, Sports and Excursions Funding (CSEF) payment: The State Government provides an annual CSEF payment of $400 to assist eligible families cover the costs of camps, excursions, and sporting activities; and
  Health Care Card concession: Parents who qualify for CSEF will automatically have this amount matched by the College with a further $400 concession (up from $256 in 2025).

  To apply for CSEF please complete the enclosed application form, or download a from at: Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund | vic.gov.au (www.vic.gov.au) and return it to the college's Finance Office.

  Applications can be entered from 27 January 2026 and close on 26 June 2026.

- ***Overdue Letters***

  Two overdue letters will be sent to all families whose account is deemed overdue, including for the following reasons:

  - Failure to submit a Payment Arrangement Plan;
  - Failure to adhere to a submitted Payment Arrangement Plan;
  - Failure to finalise an outstanding balance (annually fees are to be fully paid by 30 November);
  - Failure by the person(s) responsible for a student's fees to respond to attempts by the College to discuss their account.

- ***Final Notice***

  A Final Notice is sent to debtors who have not satisfactorily responded to the two overdue letters, after which debt collection procedures will commence.

- ***Debt Collection***

  As a last resort the College will use a debt collection agency and/or take legal action where there has not been acceptable communication or responses to earlier approaches to bring fees up to date. **The cost incurred by the College for such actions will be passed directly on to the family.**

- ***Edstart***

  We understand, when it comes to finances especially, some families are more open to a confidential discussion with an independent and trusted third party.

  An alternative payment method is available to families through Edstart who will pay your *Tuition Fees and Charges* upfront to the college and then families periodically repay *Edstart* through 2025 or over an extended period. Edstart can also facilitate a payment plan that incorporates both current and outstanding fees (pending application approval). The cost associated with this service is borne by the family.

  Included in this mailing is a flyer that contains introductory information, and whilst you are always encouraged to discuss your financial situation directly with the school to ensure fees are kept up to date, so as not to place your student's enrolment at the college in jeopardy, you have this other avenue available. Families who wish to explore establishing an Edstart account should visit: Pay your fees at St Patrick's College with Edstart.