

St Michael's College Fee Collection Policy



PURPOSE

Fees and Levies collected at St Michael's College are used for the following purposes which are aligned to the Vision and Mission of the College to:

- Provide teaching, administrative, classroom support and facilities
- Provide essential resources, materials, facilities and equipment
- Assist with providing activities such as excursions and camps
- Support the College building program
- Maintain buildings, grounds and other facilities

The St Michael's College Family and Community Engagement Group (FACE) also collects a levy through the College fee structure. This levy supports the College in many building, resource and development projects, as well as supporting students and families in cultural and sporting development.

For those families experiencing short or long-term genuine inability to pay fees, we are committed to providing support to ensure that enrolment is not compromised. Please contact the Fees Administrator for further information concerning the concession application process. Reference to the College Fee Concession Policy will bring additional clarity and information to this process.

EXPECTATIONS

1. School fee and levies are charged per term prior to the term commencing in accordance with the College Schedule of Fees and Levies (available on our website)
2. Fees are due to be paid within 14 days of the issue of the Statement of Fees and Levies. The Due date will be noted on the statement.
3. Where a parent/guardian believes financial circumstances have arisen that will prevent or delay the payment of the school fee account, a variety of options are available:
 - i. Extension of time
 - ii. Payment Plans – Payment of the school fees and levies account by regular instalments. All payment plans must ensure that the account is cleared by the last day of the school year or as negotiated with the Fees Administrator
 - iii. Fee Concessions – In case of financial hardship an application may be made for a fee concession
 - a) Concession Applications are accepted at the commencement of each year or at any point initiated by the family. Concessions are issued for a maximum period of 12 months within a calendar year. Consideration for a subsequent 12 month period will require a new application.
 - b) A compassionate and just approach under the mission and values of Brisbane Catholic Education and St Michael's College is used when reviewing applications. This eligibility, is available on the basis of a just and equitable formula reflecting financial hardship and is consistent with Brisbane Catholic Education. The same approach is adopted by all Brisbane Catholic Education Colleges for assessing eligibility.
 - c) Concession application forms are available at the College Finance Office.
 - d) All matters are dealt with on a confidential basis and in such a way that the dignity of each applicant is maintained.

4. Recovery of unpaid fees

In fairness to families who pay their school fees regularly and on time, our College will follow up all overdue school fee accounts.

- a) A reminder statement/notice/letter will be issued within 7 days to any family who has not settled their school fee account by the due date where a payment plan or other arrangements are not in place.
- b) If payment or a suitable response is not received within 7 days of the reminder statement, contact with the parent will be made via telephone, SMS, mail or email.
- c) If after two (2) weeks from the second reminder, satisfactory arrangements have not been reached, a letter of demand will be issued. In serious cases, where there is clear capacity to pay outstanding fees, legal options may be pursued by the College.
- d) Legal costs, any debt collection costs and/or other costs incurred will be at the family's expense.

AGREED PAYMENT PLANS

As mentioned in point 3 ii) above, our College offers families the opportunity of paying the school fee account by regular instalments over the course of the year. All agreed payments plans must be organised to include a regular schedule that will clear the school fees account by the last day of the school year. Any extensions to an agreed payment plan must be negotiated with the Fees Administrator. To establish an agreed payment plan, authority forms are available from the College.

WITHDRAWAL OF ENROLMENT

Reference is made to the College Leaving Early Refund Policy. Fees will be payable for the whole term in which the enrolment is terminated. For a reduction in Fees a written request must be made to the Principal at the time of notification and may be granted at the Principal's discretion.

EXTENDED LEAVE/HOLDING AN ENROLMENT PLACE

Fees will be payable for the whole term in which extended leave is taken. For a reduction in fees a written request must be made to the Principal at the time of notification and may be granted at the Principal's discretion. Consideration will be given to the length of the break, the nature of the leave, the time the student has been at the College, the number of previous occurrences, and the existence of student waiting lists.

For further clarification regarding the above school fee and levy collection process, please contact the College finance office.