



## Fees Policy

### Rationale:

St Mary's College is a Non-Government School that is funded from two main sources: State and Federal Funding and tuition fees paid by parents/guardians. Financial support, other than Federal and State funding, is essential for the continued operation of our educational facilities. Currently combined Government funding to Non-Government schools only equates to approximately 70% of that given to students attending Government schools. Therefore the charging of fees and levies is an integral part of providing adequate financial support.

### Policy Statement:

St Mary's College is committed to the provision of a Catholic Education for all students whose Parents/Guardians desire it and understands the need for both Government and family contribution to provide the funding. Since our aim is to provide quality education, with a focus on excellence in all that we do, current and future fees need to be such that the College is able to achieve this aim.

### The School's Responsibilities:

1. Maintain and develop the quality education and resources offered to students.
2. Ensure fees/levies are set appropriately.
3. Inform Parents/Guardians of fee and levy schedules for the coming year.
4. Refund, where requested, any fees paid in advance when a student leaves the College.
5. Recoup any outstanding fees/levies, through the use of Debt Collectors and Solicitors, in accordance with the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office Financial Guidelines.

### Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

1. As a member of the College community and within financial capacity, each Parent/Guardian is seen to be meeting his/her obligations.
2. The right of the student to have a place in the College confers an equal right of the College to receive the financial support of the Parent/Guardian, through payment of applicable fees and levies.
3. Parents/Guardians, who experience difficulty in meeting their financial commitment to the College, are required to make early arrangements with the Principal to discuss an appropriate payment plan. This plan will be reviewed every 6 months. The expectation is that some contribution will be made. The confidentiality of each family circumstance will be ensured.

### Consequences:

- Students will be given the opportunity to engage in a quality educational environment that is supported by adequate funding.
- Parents/Guardians will feel confident in meeting agreed financial commitments.
- The College will be active in assisting Parents/Guardians in recognizing the benefits from their commitment to the College.

### Definitions:

**Fees:** Those charges made to cover tuition and recurrent costs.

**Levies:** Charges to cover the expenses incurred with teaching the curriculum, such as subject materials, College activities and any other incidentals that arise as a consequence of providing a quality education.

**Bookhire Levy:** Charges for the hire of subject text books, photocopying and supports the Digital Learning Environment.

**Technology Levy:** Charges for the 1:1 Technology Program and supports software applications, apps, infrastructure costs, employment costs of technicians, extra devices for swap program and insurance cover on machines.

**Parents and Friends Levy:** This supports fund raising activities and enables the Parents and Friends Association to assist in building community by providing resources to the College that cannot be achieved in other ways.

**Capital Levy:** This is a levy charged to each family as a reinvestment towards new and improved facilities and maintenance.