



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Families,

We wish to provide you with an update on school fees for 2024. As an organisation, we evaluate our costs and then adjust our fees to ensure the sustainability of our schools. After careful consideration and a thorough review of our expenses, we find it necessary to introduce a fee increase across all Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools.

Our organisation, like others, is experiencing a significant increase in operating costs. These rising costs, which include insurance, building supplies, utilities, administrative expenses, and the recent NSW Government increase in teacher salaries, are the primary contributing factors to this fee increase. The NSW Government has made no adjustment in funding to meet these important wage increases.

We understand the current economic pressures for families, and to mitigate a steep increase, these adjustments will be introduced in stages over the coming years, commencing in 2024.

Our schools are committed to working with families who may be experiencing financial difficulties, and we will remain an affordable option with access to quality schooling for all, irrespective of individual financial circumstances.

You will find attached Frequently Asked Questions for parents and the Fee Schedule for your school. If you have any questions, please contact your school office for assistance.

Our priority remains to provide an exceptional education for your child, and we thank you for entrusting us with your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon John Hannaford AM
Chair - Board of Directors
Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools Limited

Mr Adam Spencer
Director of Catholic Schools (Chief Executive Officer)
Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools Limited

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we have a fee increase?

To ensure long term sustainability in schools, we must review and evaluate costs. Our organisation is experiencing significant cost increases, including insurance, building supplies, utilities, administrative expenses, and the recent NSW Government increase in teacher salaries.

Doesn't the Government fund teacher increases?

The teacher pay increases, while good news for education, are not accompanied by any additional government funding.

How much is the increase?

Significant amounts are required to meet the rising costs. These will be managed in a staged way starting with 2024. The updated 2024 fee schedule is attached for your reference.

How will these increased fees be used?

The additional funds will be directed towards covering the increased operational costs and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the schools.

Will the fee increase affect the quality of education and resources available to students?

No, we are confident that with these financial adjustments, we can maintain, if not enhance, the quality of education delivered in our catholic schools.

What are the long-term plans to manage school finances and prevent future steep fee increases?

We are focused on forward planning and cost reduction strategies. We believe the substantial increase in teachers' pay to be a unique response to the staffing challenges in education.

Was my parish priest informed of these changes?

Yes, there has been information provided to the Clergy.

What if our family cannot pay the increase?

All schools have a fee assistance policy and procedure. These continue to operate, and we invite you to contact your school if you need assistance.

Will there be more increases?

To mitigate a steep increase, these adjustments will be introduced in stages over the coming years, commencing in 2024.

Where do I go if I have more questions?

Please reach out to your school office in the first instance.