

Media Release

November 25 2020



Catholic Education SA offers fee reductions and relief

As South Australians continue to feel the impact of COVID-19, Catholic Education SA has confirmed its commitment to supporting any family that is financially struggling.

“COVID relief is available for any family who requires it,” says Dr Neil McGoran, Director, Catholic Education SA. “It has been an extremely challenging year for everyone. We want every family to know that we are here to support them and fee remissions are available.”

The announcement follows an unprecedented move to reduce the fees in every Catholic parish primary school across the State.

“In September we made a commitment to reduce fees in every one of our 68 Catholic parish primary schools. That work is now done. We’ve worked with principals and bursars to reduce our fees and take some of the pressure off families.”

The fee reductions range from 3% - 36%, with the average reduction a saving of \$446 per student. The reductions take effect in 2021 and will benefit more than 17,000 students with each school fee reducing by a minimum of \$100.

The five schools with the largest percentage reduction are:

- St Joseph’s School, Peterborough, 36%
- St Joseph’s School, Murray Bridge, 32%
- St Joseph’s School, Ottoway, 25%
- St Columba’s Memorial School, Yorketown 24%
- St Brigids School, Kilburn, 23%

“While fees vary from school to school taking into account each school’s circumstances, the community’s capacity to pay and family needs, the bottom line is we’ve made every Catholic Parish primary school more affordable for both existing and new families.

“In addition to remissions and reductions, we’ve also introduced a lower income fee. The two-tier fee structure means that schools can respond more quickly to families’ changing circumstances, and excellent Catholic schools can be accessible to all.

The reductions will not affect the quality of education offered at each school. They are part of the *Making Catholic Schools More Affordable Initiative*. The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools intends to work with Diocesan secondary and Reception – Year 12 schools to explore broader fee reductions commencing next year and continuing over a three year period.

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Past releases: [Catholic Primary schools to reduce fees](#)
(Sept 2020)

[Catholic Education SA offers fee remission](#)
(April 2020)