CATHOLIC DIOCESE of BALLARAT DOBCEL

FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL)

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Tuition Fee Discounts

In all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools, tuition fee discounts are available to families eligible for a means tested Health Care Card, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran Affairs Pensioner Card. The scheme offers tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families, to new and current students. Although a family may be eligible to receive a fee discount, families may choose not to apply for the fee discount and pay the full school fee.

The Family Fee Assistance Scheme will be implemented across all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools. Families that qualify for the scheme will pay $520 per annum ($10 per week) for primary school tuition fees.

The discounted fee covers tuition and capital fees only. It does not cover additional charges such as camps, book hire, subject levies; however, parents may approach the principal as it may be possible to have these additional charges discounted. If you are receiving the Family Fee Assistance tuition fee discount, your child will be able to take part in school activities, trips and excursions, however, you may be required to pay for activities which require additional payment.

To access this scheme you will need to go through the school's normal enrolment procedures in order to gain a place for your child at the school. Once a position had been confirmed, you will be informed that Family Fee discounts are available; and to gain access to the discount, parents or guardians will need to show a valid card and complete a simple application form.

It is expected the Scheme will continue to operate for the length of the child's enrolment at the school whilst a family is eligible for the Health Care Card, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran Affairs Pensioner Card.

Eligibility

For the purposes of this Scheme, a Parent/Carer must hold a means tested Health Care Card, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran Affairs Pensioner Card. Centrelink issues a number of cards for a variety of reasons. For some cards the income test requirements are stringent whilst for other cards they are more generous or non-existent. The aim of the Scheme is to assist families with limited financial resources and therefore, only cards with the lower income test requirements are automatically eligible. Please note that students who are holders of Health Care Cards are not eligible.

If you receive a Health Care Card during the school year but after Term 1, the reduced fee will apply on a prorata basis. For example, if you receive the card in June you will be charged two terms at the full rate and two terms at the reduced rate. If you pay the tuition fee for the whole year and your card is no longer valid or is not renewed, you should inform the school immediately once the card is no longer valid. A new account will be issued.

If you are not eligible for the Family Fee Assistance discount yet are experiencing financial difficulty, you should apply for fee assistance through the school principal. You will be asked to provide information to assist the school in assessing your individual claim for assistance.