



# St. Finbar's Primary School

90 Centre Rd, East Brighton Vic. 3187

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Email: [principal@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au)

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26 November, 2025

Dear Parents,

I am writing to provide details of changes in tuition fees for the 2026 academic year. Any decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year. St Finbar's, too, is facing increasing costs in multiple areas of school operations, professional learning and increased MACS levies.

Our tuition fees at St Finbar's are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute (CTC), which is reviewed annually. The Capacity to Contribute figure is set at a higher level for schools with a higher socioeconomic index and directly impacts the grants funding that the school receives. Schools with a higher socioeconomic index receive less government grant funding than schools with a lower socioeconomic index.

MACS has determined that St Finbar's fees are currently below our Capacity to Contribute figure and has set us a target, which we are obligated to reach by 2029. As a result, we have made some changes to our fee structure and introduced a third tier for families with three children. Whilst we have needed to increase the family fee for all families, we have been able to reduce the student levies in most year levels. Therefore the average fee increase for 2026 is 5.7% (when you take into account the reduction in levies).

## **FAMILY SCHOOL FEE**

In 2025, the Family Fee for a one-child family will be \$3100. For families with two children, it will be \$3680 per year and for families with three children it will be \$3780.

## **CAPITAL LEVY**

In 2026 a Capital Levy will replace three previous levies (Building Levy, Maintenance Levy, Resources Levy). The Capital Levy will support the repayment of the \$2.7 million interest-free loan used to construct the Father Lou Heriot Hall, cover school maintenance costs instead of requiring parent working bees; and fund the ongoing resourcing and maintenance of school equipment. The Capital Levy in 2026 has been set at the same level as the total of the previous three levies in 2025 – there has been no increase for 2026.

## **STUDENT LEVIES**

The Student Levy per year reflects actual costs incurred by the school and has increased accordingly; however, these increases have been kept to a minimum and have actually reduced in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2

Levies are paid per child and include the following:

- Technology
- Excursions and Camps
- Swimming program and Prep - 6 Swimming Carnival
- Interhouse/Interschool Sports Program & buses
- Bayside Cluster program (Years 5 & 6)
- Public speaking program (Year 5)
- Leadership Day (Year 5)
- Sacramental Levy for Sacraments (Years 3, 4 and 6)
- Book Levy
- Chromebook Levy (for students in Years 3 – 6)

**2026 FEE SCHEDULE:**

	<b>FAMILY FEE +</b>	<b>CAPITAL LEVY =</b>	<b>TOTAL FAMILY FEES</b>
One child	\$3100	\$870	<b>\$3970</b>
Two children	\$3680	\$870	<b>\$4550</b>
Three children	\$3780	\$870	<b>\$4650</b>

<b>YEAR LEVEL</b>	<b>STUDENT LEVY (Per Student)</b> Please add the relevant levy per student in the family
Prep	\$760
Year 1	\$760
Year 2	\$800
Year 3	\$1380
Year 4	\$1640
Year 5	\$1800
Year 6	\$2670

**CAMP, SPORT & EXCURSION FUNDING**

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$150 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are deducted from the student's school fees.

**PAYMENT DATES**

We will offer two payment options in 2026\*. Parents may choose to pay:

1. Full fees paid by 13th March 2026
2. Via a payment plan using the CDF Pay App

\*we will consider an alternative payment plan, such as regular Credit Card payments. Please speak to Libby if you would like to set this up.

All fees need to be paid by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal, Michelle Hill. We remain committed to keeping tuition fees as affordable as possible whilst also working towards achieving MACS' 2029 target that has been set for our school. With our 2029 MACS targets in mind, we will consider our approach to fees over the next 12 months and ensure that St Finbar's is in line with our neighbouring Catholic schools. Over time, this may result in changes to the structure of fees, for example, the way that family fees are calculated.

Thank you for your understanding. I am grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our school.

Yours Sincerely



Michelle Hill

Principal



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## ***Payment of School Fees in 2026*** **Choice of Payment Option**


Parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to:

1. Select one of the options listed below.
2. Indicate how the payments will be made.
3. Sign the documents indicating the intention to pay the fees and return this document to the office by Friday 6th February 2026.

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eldest child's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please tick one of the options below**

<b>Option 1</b>	Full fees paid by 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026.	
<b>Option 2</b>	Payment plan through the CDF Pay App (fortnightly, monthly, quarterly)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please be aware that Credit Card payments through CDF Pay will attract fees. If you need to pay by Credit Card please tick Option 3 and we can set up an alternative. Debit Card payments do not attract fees.</li></ul>	
<b>Option 3</b>	An alternative payment arrangement (to be confirmed with Libby)	

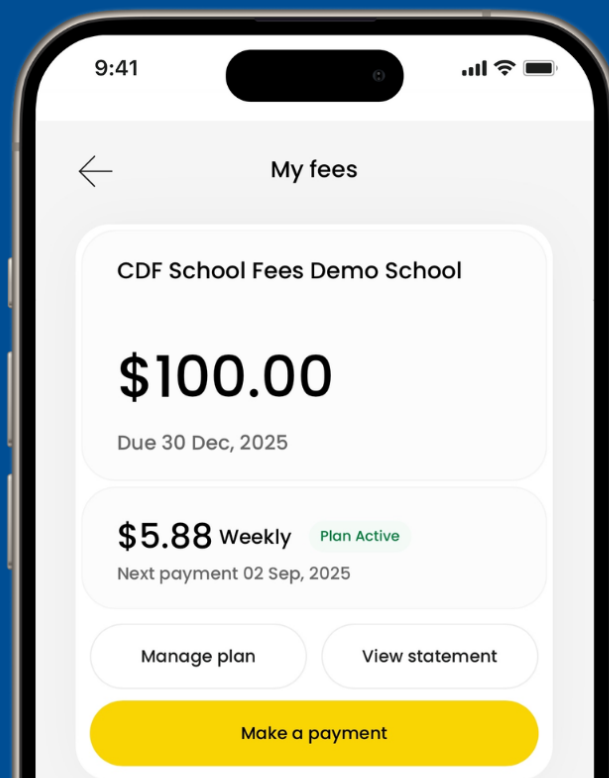
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT TO THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2026.**

# Pay your school fees easily with CDFpay

## Get started today

- 1 Register for CDFpay
- 2 Link your school fees
- 3 Make a payment or set up a flexible plan



**Download the app now**



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