

Friday, 1st November 2024 Term 4 - Week 4 of 11

School Closure Day Next Monday & Tuesday

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Last weekend, the leadership staff of St Catherine's had the opportunity to not only receive professional development in enhancing their ability to lead but also to reflect upon all that has been achieved so far this year.

The journey for myself has been both extraordinary, challenging as well as hugely rewarding. Located within this newsletter is an account of what actually has occurred. We know there is still much to do, but we have certainly taken huge steps to ensure school improvement and learning effectiveness takes place.

One of the key statements we lead with last Friday evening, and in a presentation I gave at the Principals Forum last Tuesday was the following quote:

Your gífts are not about you. Leadershíp ís not about you. Your purpose ís not about you. A lífe of signíficance ís about SERVING those who need your gífts, your leadershíp, your purpose.

And so, as a staff, we seek to use our gifts, our leadership, our purpose, and especially our faith to serve our students and this amazing community we call St Catherine of Siena.





On behalf of the school community, we wish to thank and congratulate Ms Deirdre O'Reilly and Mrs Monica Martino on what can be described as an amazing display of student talent and achievement.

The Opening Night was an amazing success and we are advised that the attendance was greater than last year. A wonderful acknowledgement as to the value families place in their child/ren having the opportunity to develop creative talents.





We would like to acknowledge the effort and commitment shown by staff, especially the Learning Support Officers who worked tirelessly to bring this all together.



The artwork currently displayed will, over the coming weeks, fade from the walls to be replaced with student work samples and the iconography of the coming liturgical season. The school will commence the Season Of Advent two weeks earlier than is prescribed by the liturgical calendar so that they are provided with the opportunity to fully deepen their knowledge of this season prior to ending the year and entering Christmastide.



2025 Class Placement Parental Input (Closes Friday 8th November)

Since communicating to all families the policy around class placement and inviting parents to provide additional information to assist us in their child's placement for 2025, we have had a tremendous uptake of the opportunity to be part of this process. Please refer to previous newsletters for a copy of the policy and process if you are yet not familiar with this.

Parental input for 2025 Class Placement will close as of next Friday 8th November. Please note that once class lists are finalised, no further adjustments will be made due to the enormous time and effort it takes to set classes up.

If you wish to provide any further input into this process, parents and carers have until this **Friday 8th November 3.30pm**.

Please title the email with the heading "Confidential – 2025 Class Placement". The email address to use is:

dnoack@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au





2 mins a day (

of reading outside of school results in higher scores on reading achievement tests and an increase of more than I.8 million reading words annually

PAT Reading / Norm Reference Report for students with year level *Year 6* between 02-10-2024 and 31-10-2024

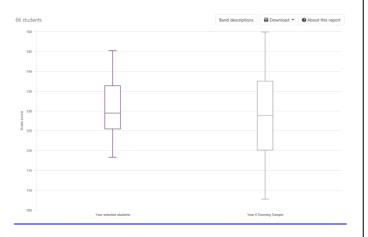
At the end of each academic year, every student in each year level sits a PAT Reading Assessment Test.

In this test, students are asked to read various passages and answer multiple-choice questions to assess their comprehension skills.

This graph highlights the success of our Grade 6 cohort of learners in the area of reading. The results are pictured in the left side of this graph.

The other representation is a Normed graph. This is a way we as teachers at St Catherine's can assess our cohorts of learners against likecohorts of students who are the same age.

As you can see our students have made some IMPRESSIVE growth this year and when comparing them to the like-students across the country.



A New Code Of Conduct For All Staff Employed By Melbourne Archdiocese Schools

What is a Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct (the Code) embodies our collective commitment to fostering a positive and supportive environment that prioritises the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone, inspired by our Catholic faith.

The Code establishes clear expectations for behaviour and guides our actions, including each person's responsibility to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, ensuring responsible and ethical conduct, while also modelling these optimal actions for students and all members of the MACS community.

The Code comprises 12 fundamental elements and operates in conjunction with individual employment contracts and all MACS policies and procedures. Together, these create a comprehensive structure that guides our actions and fosters a positive Catholic work environment.

Who does the Code cover?

The Code applies to all people who carry out work in any capacity for MACS, including, volunteers, consultants, contractors and School Advisory Council members.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following circumstances:

- while we are supervising students
- when we are communicating or interacting with students, staff, the school community or the public, including communications via social media or other technologies
- when we are attending activities away from the workplace, or out of ordinary hours, and which are supported, sufficiently connected or approved by MACS, including professional learning, training courses, social functions, pilgrimages and other events
- when we are representing MACS or attending an event on behalf of MACS.

A copy of the Code is available from the information stand located in the reception foyer. Please feel free to access a copy for your reference.



In the Catholic tradition, November is traditionally a month of remembrance of the dead. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on 1 November and the Commemoration of the All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on 2 November. While no longer holy days of obligation in Australia, the Church has consistently encouraged prayers for the faithful departed and, during November, a list of the names of the dead is usually placed in the church so that the community can remember them in prayer.

All Saints' Day commemorates all the saints in heaven. The feast dates back to the early Church, when communities would gather and celebrate the anniversary of the martyr's death. During the persecution under the emperor Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each saint, so the Church established a common feast day for all the martyrs. The first mention of this feast came during the pontificate of Pope Gregory III (731-741). On 1 November, 732, Pope Gregory consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St Peter dedicated to honour all the saints.

The choice of day may have been also intended to co-opt the Ancient Roman 'Feast of the Lamures,' on which Romans used to placate the restless spirits of the dead. A century later, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to the universal Church.

The feast took on such importance in the life of the Church that from the beginning it was celebrated with a vigil. So what about Halloween? Well, as with any great feast of the Church, the celebration begins on the eve or vigil of that day (just think of Christmas Eve, for example).

The liturgical celebration on the day before the feast became known as hallowed evening or Hallowe'en. Halloween, then, is simply the eve of All Saints Day. In fact, this is where we get its name. The name Halloween comes from All Hallows Eve, in which hallows is the Old English term for saints. Thus, Halloween was originally the beginning of the celebration of all the saints and, as with any Catholic feast, was intended to be a great, holy party that culminated with worship at Mass. What we see today is quite different from the original, intended purpose of this feast. As parents and as Catholics, it's an opportunity to teach our children what the true meaning of this feast is and in celebrating Halloween, All Hallows Eve, bring it back to more of its intended purpose.

Fees & Levies for 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide you details of changes in tuition fees for the 2025 academic year.

Any decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an education experience that supports every student to flourish.

We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

St Catherine of Siena Primary School too, is facing increasing costs in multiple areas of school operations, including WorkCover premiums, Child Safety compliance, risk management, teacher resources and professional learning, and higher central system costs.

Our tuition fees at St Catherine of Siena 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, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

School funding is complex, so I have included with this letter a simple school funding "explainer", located on the back page of this newsletter, which I hope will support your understanding of how government funds Catholic (and other nongovernment) schools and how tuition fees support our school.

To ensure that we can continue to deliver a personalised, high-quality education that is responsive to the diverse interests and academic, social and emotional needs of our students, it is necessary to adjust our fees in 2025.

As a result, St Catherine of Siena's annual tuition fee for 2025 are as follows:

The **School Family Fee** for 2025 is: **\$1,590**. This fee is billed to each family **regardless of the number of children enrolled** and provides funds for the development of learning resources as well as the maintenance of school facilities and grounds. The **Capital Levy of \$50**, which provides funds for future capital improvement projects, is included within the School Family Fee.

The **Student Levy** of **\$510** per child (Prep to Year 6), reflects the individual costs associated in engaging each child in their learning experiences and activities. The Student Levy specifically covers costs associated with book lists, curriculum and excursion expenses for each child.

The additional costs relate to the swimming and camping programs, along with technology resources.

The cost of the **Camping Program** is as follows: Year 3: \$300 Camp Sunnystones, 13th – 14th Nov Year 4: \$300 Lady Northcote, 7th – 8th August Year 5: \$375 PBL Kynton, 8th – 10th October Year 6: \$375 Waratah Bay, 26th – 28th Nov

The school, through various grants, discounts the true cost of the camping program. It has been necessary to do this as camping costs are now inclusive of staffing costs, whereas in the past this was provided on a voluntary basis. Many schools, sadly, have made the decision to discontinue camping programs because of this reason.

The cost of the Swimming Program is as follows:

Prep:	\$90 (5 session program)
Year 1:	\$90 (5 session program)
Year 2:	\$90 (5 session program)
Year 3 & 4:	\$0 (onsite program)
Year 5	\$40 (2 day program)
Year 6	\$40 (2 day program)

The cost of the **Technology Resourcing Program** is as follows:

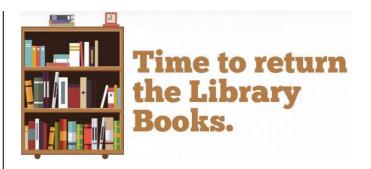
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Prep:	\$50
Year 1:	\$100
Year 2:	\$100
Year 3:	\$100
Year 4:	\$100
Year 5	\$ O
Year 6	\$ 0

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain committed to keeping tuition fees as low and affordable as possible, and to working closely with our community to make this transition as smooth as possible.

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

Des Noack Principal





It's that time of the year when we begin to search for library books that haven't been returned to our school library yet.

Mrs Susie Aquilina has the enormous job of ensuring that we end the year with all the books we started with. But she can't do this on her own. We need every family to do a thorough check.

Library books have a habit of hiding once they have been read. Favourite spots are under the bed, in bedroom bookshelves or toy boxes. School bags are another one of their favourite places to hide.

This long weekend, we are hoping families will take the opportunity to go on a Book Hunt. Let's see how many of these tricky, hide and seek books we can find and return them to our library. Susie will be thrilled to see everyone of them back to where they belong.



Construction Notice Regarding Footpath Behind Our School

We have been advise that GP Bluestone will shortly commence construction works on behalf of the Melton City council.

They will be reconstructing the footpath and the pram crossing in front of **13 Stirling Terrace**, **Melton West**, **VIC 3337**, for a safer path for the residents and schoolchildren.



The work will be done and managed in a way that minimises disruption to the residents and commuters.

The work is expected to be completed by **November 20th, 2024** (maybe sooner if weather permits).

During working hours from 7am to 5pm, footpath closures near the work site and speed limits on the road will be implemented. This may cause minor traffic delays, estimated to be between 1 and 3 minutes.

GP Bluestone and Melton city council is committed to minimising the impacts on residents and road users; however, some noise and disturbance may be experienced during these works.

We thank you for your understanding and patience while this important work is completed. If you have any questions about this roadwork, please contact Wajid Ali on 0459 993 168 or email Melton City Council directly.



On Wednesday 11th December we are hosting a Carols by Candle Family Picnic Night to be held on the school oval.

Our students have already commenced learning their Christmas (Christian) Carols. Walking the corridors is a pure pleasure when hearing them sing!

A seating plan and further information will be provided closer to the date. All we are asking of our families is to book in the date and start planning what you will bring as a picnic dinner!

Carols \mathcal{E} the picnic will commence at 5.00pm and finish at 7.30pm



This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 12:28-34

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?'

Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.'

Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

Gospel Reflection

Generally, in the gospels, the scribes are shown as antagonistic towards Jesus and when we begin this passage we may be expecting a trap being laid by the scribe. In Jewish tradition, a lot of teaching occurs through a question and answer style and often the question is related to a particular teaching from Torah. Here, the scribe approaches Jesus as a teacher, a rabbi, and poses a question just as he would to any other worthy teacher. He asks which of the commandments Jesus regards to be foremost. This could be an opening question to any teacher and one would expect it to be the start of a long conversation. Neither of the commandments Jesus guotes come from the Ten Commandments with which we are most familiar, but, rather, they come from other parts of Torah (the Law). His qualification of the first commandment - to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength - is a way of capturing the whole person. What Jesus is saying is to love God completely and utterly with your whole person. Then he follows up and adds another

commandment – 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' The scribe agrees with Jesus' teaching and adds that these are far more important than offering sacrifice. This is a pretty controversial statement from a scribe! Sacrifice has been the official form of prayer practised in the Temple for a very long time and he suggests that love of God and love of neighbour are far more important! It is because of this understanding about the priority of love over religious practice – the hallmark of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims – that Jesus pronounces the scribe to be 'not far from the kingdom of God.'

Historical Context – Sacrifice

We know from the Old Testament that sacrifice was an important religious practice dating back to the foundations of Jewish faith. After the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, sacrifice of birds and animals was practised there as the highest form of worship. With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE – about the time Mark's gospel was written – temple worship and sacrifice came to an abrupt end. The entire nature of Judaism changed from a Templecentred faith to a much more decentralised faith. In this week's gospel, the gospel writer is projecting the reality of his time back into the scribe's encounter with Jesus.

Living the Gospel – Love

Jesus reminds us 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' There's an unspoken, underlying idea here that is absolutely crucial. Before you can love your neighbour, you must first love yourself. To say that you love yourself today can imply a level of boastfulness or ego. However, what is required is a genuine love of self – an acceptance; a respect; a true valuing of self. Only then can we know how to treat others. When we ask ourselves how we would want to be treated it points us towards how we should treat others. What is summed up so simply by Jesus is a very tough ask!

Gospel Focus – First of all

Jesus is asked which commandment is first and he provides two commandments as his answer. However, he doesn't bundle them together as one overarching commandment – he very distinctly identifies them as first and second. Sometimes we can feel the way to express love for God is through demonstrating our love for other people in charitable or justice-focused actions. However, Jesus makes clear that the first commandment of all is the love of God with all our being – that God is worthy of love in God's own right. Our love of God may inspire us to action for others but the first step is loving God for who God is.



Week 5

- Monday 04/11
 - Saint Charles Borromeo
 - School Closure Day
- Tuesday 05/11
- Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday Wednesday 06/11
- Thursday 07/11
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Friday 08/11
 - Year Level Mass
 - Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 09/11

- Sunday 10/11
 - 32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 6

Monday 11/11

- Saint Martin of Tours
- 2025 Prep Transition Session 1 9am 10am
- Remembrance Day
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 12/11

- Saint Josaphat
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 13/11

• Year 5 Aspire Leadership Incursion

Thursday 14/11

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 15/11

- Saint Albert the Great
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 16/11

- Saint Gertrude
- Saint Margaret of Scotland

Sunday 17/11

• 33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 7

Monday 18/11

- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Prep Transition Session 2 9am 10am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 19/11

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 20/11

Thursday 21/11

- The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Friday 22/11
 - Sports Carnival Day
 - Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Sunday 24/11

• Solemnity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe

Week 8

Monday 25/11

- Saint Catherine of Alexandria
- 2025 Prep Transition Session 3 9am 10am
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 26/11

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Parent Advisory Council 7.00pm 8.00pm

Wednesday 27/11 Parent Support G

- Parent Support Group Meetings
 Thursday 28/11
 - Parent Support Group Meetings
 - Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
 - Archdiocesan Celebration of Principalship
 2.00pm 9.30pm

Friday 29/11

• Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 30/11

Saint Andrew

Sunday 01/12

• 1st Sunday Of Advent

Week 9

Monday 02/12

- 2025 Prep Transition Session 4 9am 10am
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 03/12

- Saint Francis Xavier
- 2025 Student Transition Day 1 (Prep Grade 5's) @ 11:30am -1pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 04/12

Saint John Damascene

Thursday 05/12

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 06/12

- Saint Nicholas
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 07/12

Saint Ambrose

Sunday 08/12

• 2nd Sunday Of Advent

Week 10

Monday 09/12

- The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 2025 Student Transition Day 2 (Prep Grade 5s) @ 11:30am -1pm

Tuesday 10/12

- Our Lady of Loreto
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 11/12

- Saint Damasus I
- Carols By Candlelight & Family Picnic 5.00pm - 7.30pm

Thursday 12/12

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 13/12

- Saint Lucy
- 2025 Prep Transition Session 5 9am 10am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Reports sent home

Saturday 14/12

• Saint John of the Cross

Sunday 15/12

• 3rd Sunday Of Advent

Week 11

Monday 16/12

- Year 6 Big Day Out
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 17/12

• Year 6 Graduation Liturgy & Presentation Night 6.00pm

Wednesday 18/12

- Whole School Mass 9.00am- Advent Week 4
- End of Year Award Ceremony @ 2:00pm
- Last Day of Term 4 Dismissal Time 3:15pm





Prep A

Kai A - For being responsible for your learning and remaining focused during independent maths tasks.

Selena T – For extending your writing by including a who, what doing, where and when.

Prep B

Aaliyah F - For being a knowledgeable learner of the prep community and sharing with your classmates.

Cole G - For being a caring member of the prep community

Prep C

Levi A - For recording the sounds you heard to write an awesome fact about pandas and dinosaurs. Great work!

Melanin B - For thinking of words that make the long e sound using the 'ea' and 'ee' digraphs. Well Done!

Year 1A

Anthony G – For showing incredible personal growth regarding behavior focusing, and contributing to class discussions.

Achucha A – For making significant and impressive progress in Reading and Writing! Well done Achucha!

Year 1B

Zac K - For demonstrating focus during independent writing tasks until you have completed the task to a high standard and for attempting to spell new words in your writing.

Dakota S - For consistently showing our school value kindness and always offering an encouraging word to anyone in need.

Year 1C

Nyanring M - For demonstrating a positive mindset in swimming this week and for consistently following all expectations. Well done!

James S - For demonstrating resilience in swimming this week and following all of our school expectations. Well done!

Year 2A

Deng D - For showing great courage during the swimming program this week. You truly are a star! Quinn B - For having such a positive attitude and spreading joy in 2A. We are so lucky to have you!

Year 2B

Alex Z - For demonstrating your knowledge of telling the time to "half past" and "quarter past."

Nova H - For being a responsible role model to your peers during our swimming program. Well done, Nova!

Year 3A

Noah L - Showing amazing growth in the unit of measurement.

Fenaan T - Achieving great results in your spelling test in morphology and irregular words.

Year 3B

Ivan D - For being a responsible learner by settling well into term 4 and completing tasks independently

Saint N - For showing an outstanding understanding of onomatopoeia during the novel study Matilda. Well done Saint!

Year 3C

Lekky M - For your enthusiasm when reading and your ability to understand the texts you engage with.

Maan T - For demonstrating a thorough understanding of common and uncommon spelling patterns.

Year 4A

Aleth A - For adding connectives and description to your procedure text 'How to Make a Pizza' Great effort.

John S - For showing responsibility for your learning by choosing effective strategies to support focus. Well done.

Year 4B

Apundak T - For taking great efforts in creating slides to efficiently present your data as pictograph and bar graph to the class. Well Done! Archie F - For becoming increasingly confident to contribute to class discussions and attempting tasks independently. Keep up the great work!

Year 4C

Jobe G - For your focus during the probability post assessment. You demonstrated great growth in your learning.

Sophie C - For revising over your answers during the probability post assessment. Your results show a good growth in your understanding of chance.

Year 5B

Aaliyah F - For showing responsibility, kindness and respect through your words and actions.

Habeeb F - For your focus and participation in all classroom activities this week.

Year 5C

Sebastian D - Amazing effort and participation during class this week! Keep it up! Rose M - Using your spelling and writing time to improve your cursive handwriting. Well done!

Year 6A

Mary L - For your creative input and well structured free verse poem, Well done!!

Mayen M - For demonstrating a 23-point scale score growth in PAT reading comprehension. Amazing work, super proud.

Year 6B

Lexi S - For your writing a powerful free verse poem which captivated your strong faith.

Deng N - For writing a powerful free verse poem with a range of poetic devices and a clear message.

Year 6C

Nathan M - For showing progress in understanding, interpreting, and discussing texts. You consistently demonstrate a strong ability to think critically about stories, characters, and ideas. Well done!

Owen M - For consistently demonstrating exceptional teamwork and cooperation in group settings during Inquiry. Your ability to listen to others' ideas, contribute thoughtfully, and encourage your teammates has set a positive example for the whole class.

Mathematics Award

Charles N (4B) For successfully recalling all of the multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. Well done!

Dit P (4C) For successfully recalling all of the multiplication facts up to 12×12 . Well done!



Parent Guide to Catholic

School Funding

Catholic schools (and other non-government schools) are funded through a combination of:

- 1. Commonwealth Government funding
- 2. State Government funding
- 3. Parent contributions in the form of tuition fees and charges.

This is how the pieces of the pie fit together.

Baseline funding (the SRS)

There is an agreed annual amount that government funds every school to meet its students' educational needs. This is called the **Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)**. Under this national agreement, the Australian and state governments together fund schools in line with the SRS.

The final SRS Base for 2024 was \$13,570 for each primary student, and \$17,053 for each secondary student.

In addition to this base amount, there are up to six loadings that can provide additional funding for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

To ensure that funding keeps up with changes in wages and other costs, the SRS base amount and loadings are indexed each year.

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The Capacity to Contribute (CTC)

For Catholic schools, the SRS base amount is then **reduced** by the school community's CTC. This can be as much as an 80% reduction.

The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) for each school is determined by the taxable income of the families attending the school, as reported annually to the ATO.

Schools are currently expected to recover the CTC shortfall in SRS funding through school fees.

Importantly, none of this government funding can be used for buildings and infrastructure in Catholic schools. Our buildings and infrastructure are funded by capital grants from the Commonwealth and/or Victorian governments, and by parent contributions through fees, school cash reserves and capital levies.

Further information is available on the <u>School Resourcing Standard</u> through the Australian Government Department of Education.

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