



St Bernadette's School

2024 Financial Information

At the August 2020 meeting, the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools resolved to lower the school fees of every Catholic primary school in 2021 under its *Making Catholic Education More Affordable* initiative. The fee reduction in each primary school varied from school to school and we were pleased to advise that the reduction at St Bernadette's was more than that of the majority of other Catholic schools (in the order of 20%).

We are now pleased to advise that the fees for 2024 will remain the same as 2021, 2022 and 2023. The only change will be that, whilst sibling discount will remain for those here at St Bernadette's, we will no longer be offering the sibling discount for children with siblings at Sacred Heart College and Cabra College. This is in line with the Colleges' fee policies and that of other pathway schools.

In 2024 the fees (with sibling discount applied) will be:

	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children
School Fee	\$2,900	\$5,510	\$7,830	\$9,860
Low Income School Fee	\$1,600	\$3,040	\$4,320	\$5,440

Sibling discount

The following discounts will apply to fees for students with siblings here at St Bernadette's school.

- Two children: full fees less 5%
- Three children: full fees less 10%
- Four children: full fees less 15%
- Five children: full fees less 20%
- Six children: full fees less 25%

Procedures

It is the responsibility of the School Board to ensure all reasonable steps are taken regarding the collection of school fees. Parents/Carers make a commitment to pay school fees when they sign the Enrolment form, prior to their child commencing at St Bernadette's School.

School fee accounts will be issued at the beginning of Term 1, 2024.

The school offers payment of school fees by cash, EFTPOS, direct debit, B-Pay, QKR App or Centrelink deductions. It is expected a repayment program is arranged at the start of the year and the school encourages regular communication between all parties in relation to the payment of fees.

Our preferred method of payment is via a direct debit authority which will be enclosed with the school fee account sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Other Educational Activities (Camps, Extra-curricular Sport, Carnivals etc...)

These educational activities are valued highly by students, families and staff. Parents/carers are given adequate notice regarding the cost of such activities and extended payment plans can be arranged if requested. All students are expected to participate, as the program is an integral part of the

curriculum. **Regular payment plans do NOT include extra educational activities which are billed during the year. These invoices will appear on the statement and are required to be paid separately at time of issue.**

Laptop Program

Over the last 3 years all students from Year 3-6 have been supplied with a Surface-Go laptop. Over this time the cost of repairs and maintenance has been borne by the school, which has proven to be a significant expense for the school. Therefore from 2024, as students enter the program in Year 3, we have implemented the following procedure.

There will be a 'bond' payment of \$300 for all Year 3 students to cover the cost of a Surface Go Laptop. A brand new device, with charger, screen protector and carry bag, will be supplied to each student in Year 3, to be used for the remainder of their schooling at St Bernadette's School. This bond payment will be used to cover the cost of any repairs required for the laptop. When the student leaves the school, parents will be refunded the balance of their \$300 bond, provided the laptop is in good working order.

Year 6 Levy

There is an additional levy of \$250 for Year 6 students to cover the cost of a senior student top, their graduation event, Journey to Emmaus and other leadership programs.

Low Income School Fee and other Fee Remissions

An annual school fee figure has been set for families on low incomes (\$1600).

If families qualify for 'School Card' (a South Australian Government assistance scheme to support low income families with educational costs), the low income school fee will apply.

Families who do not qualify for School Card but still require financial assistance are encouraged to meet with Karen Thomas, Finance Manager and/or Ray Higgins, Principal to discuss fee remission. Such conversations are strictly confidential, and our aim is to support families and agree on a mutually acceptable repayment plan. Such plans will be reviewed each year.

It is school policy that no child should be denied enrolment at St Bernadette's for financial reasons, so we strongly encourage families to seek support if necessary, and to keep us updated on any changes in their financial situation during the year. If you would like to discuss payment plans or have any queries in relation to your school fees please contact the Finance Manager, Karen Thomas by one of the following methods:

Phone: (08) 82992900

Email: kthomas@stberna.catholic.edu.au

Ray Higgins
PRINCIPAL

Claire Ellul
CHAIR, SCHOOL BOARD

August 2023