CANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
46 Banchory Ave, HILLSIDE Vic. 3037
ABN 72 007642 368
Phone: 8390 9200
www.canahillside.catholic.edu.au

Cana Catholic Primary School has a commitment to the care, safety, and wellbeing of children.

Frequently asked questions

School fees

1. Why are the school fees changing?

Catholic schools are funded through a combination of government funding and parent fees.

As government funding does not meet the full cost of providing Catholic education, fees remain an important part of funding teaching, learning, student wellbeing and the day-to-day life of our school.

For 2027, MACS has set fee guidelines in response to significant cost pressures, including higher operating costs and the expected cost of salary and conditions improvements under the next enterprise agreement (EBA).

We know any fee increase affects family budgets, which is why we are committed to keeping fees as affordable as possible.

2. What support is available for my family?

As a Catholic school, we are committed to ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent a family from participating fully in our school community. We recognise that circumstances can change, sometimes unexpectedly.

Please contact **Alison Bretag - Principal, or Trudy Milligan - Bursar** for a private and confidential conversation about your circumstances.

Concessional fees and other fee-support arrangements may be available, including for eligible Health Care Card holders. We will work with families respectfully and sensitively to understand what support may be available.

Class size and structures and student learning

3. Is our school changing class structures?

No. Our school class structures will remain as they are for 2027.

4. Why is the school increasing class sizes?

Planning guidelines from MACS are for schools to work towards an average class size of around 25 students across the school.

This is a planning guide, not a fixed number for every classroom and schools continue to take account of student learning needs, room size, year level and the particular circumstances of each cohort when forming classes.

5. Will larger classes impact on my child's learning or the attention they receive?

Class sizes within this range are consistent with those used across Victorian education systems and are not expected to affect student learning and flourishing. Educational research consistently shows that class sizes within this range preserve student achievement and individual progress.

In our classrooms, what matters most is high-quality teaching, purposeful lesson planning, and the connection our teachers build with every child.

This adjustment allows us to keep our tuition fees manageable while ensuring our classrooms remain well-resourced environments where your child receives personal attention, care, and encouragement to flourish.

Staffing changes

6. What staffing changes will be occurring in 2027?

Our staff are central to the life of our school, and we recognise that changes to roles and responsibilities can affect people who have made a valued contribution to our community.

Our goal has been to direct our school's resources where they make the greatest difference to your child's education.

For 2027, we have we have streamlined some administrative and leadership roles so we can focus our resources on classroom teaching, student support and care.

We remain committed to valuing and supporting our educators. These changes will help us maintain well-supported classes, invest in our teaching staff, and continue the programs and support that help students learn, grow and flourish while ensuring the school remains financially sustainable for the future.

7. Is there a hiring freeze?

The temporary recruitment pause was designed to give schools time to finish their 2027 budget and staffing plans before appointing new people to vacant roles.

This has now been lifted, and schools may advertise and recruit to positions included within their approved 2027 budget. This includes re-engaging fixed-term employees to genuine contract positions for 2027 where these roles have been provided for within the submitted 2027 budget.

Tiered family fee structure

8. What is a tiered family-fee structure?

Catholic schools receive government funding on a per-student basis. The funding model assumes that a school will also receive a parent contribution for each enrolled child.

Under a flat family-fee model, the same tuition amount is charged whether a family has one child or several children at the school. This can create a gap between the funding a school needs for each student and the fee income it receives.

Moving to a tiered structure brings fee arrangements closer to the way school funding is calculated, while continuing to recognise the additional cost for larger families through lower fees for younger siblings.

9. Why is the school moving to tiered family fees?

Many MACS primary schools already use a tiered family-fee structure. In 2027, the remaining primary schools will move from a flat family fee to a tiered structure.

Under a tiered structure, fees are set for the first child, with lower fees for each additional sibling. Please refer to the attached Cana Catholic Primary School Notice of 2027 School Fees.

We know that financial circumstances can change, and support is available for families who may be finding fees difficult. Eligible families can continue to access concessional-fee arrangements

If you would like to discuss your personal circumstances, please reach out to the school directly.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

10. Who is MACS?

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) is responsible for almost 300 Catholic primary and secondary schools, educating more than 120,000 students across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

As one of the fastest-growing education systems in Victoria, MACS supports schools to provide high-quality learning, strong wellbeing support and faith formation for the growing number of families choosing Catholic education each year.

11. What is its role in our school?

The role of MACS is to oversee a system of almost 300 schools educating nearly 120,000 students, ensuring Catholic education remains strong, sustainable and accessible for generations to come.

When MACS was established, it reflected the reality that Catholic education had grown beyond what individual schools could reasonably manage alone.

Today's schools operate in an increasingly complex environment, requiring expertise in governance, educational improvement, workforce planning, child safety, finance, infrastructure and compliance.

A coordinated system enables schools to focus on what matters most: delivering an outstanding education centered on faith and the flourishing of every student.

12. What are the benefits of being part of MACS?

The strength of being part of MACS is that schools retain their local identity and leadership, while drawing on the support, resources and shared responsibility of a much larger Catholic education community.

Over the past two years, MACS has implemented its Vision for Instruction and Vision for Engagement strategies to strengthen learning and wellbeing outcomes across the system. These reforms are helping schools deliver the high-quality educational experience that families increasingly expect and value.

Our recent NAPLAN results provide further evidence that our focus on evidence-based teaching and student engagement is making a difference.

We are proud that more families are choosing Catholic education and recognise the value our schools provide to students and their communities.

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Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

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NOTICE OF 2027 SCHOOL FEES

27th October 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians

The Cana Catholic Primary School Fee and Levies for the 2027 School Year will be as follows:

Description	1 Child Family	2 Child Family	3 Child Family	4 Child or more Family
Family Fee	*$2,415.00*	*$2,536.00*	*$2,663.00*	*$2,796.00*
Capital Fee	*$450.00*	*$450.00*	*$450.00*	*$450.00*
Levies per Student				
Educational/Curriculum Levy	*$455.00*	*$910.00*	*$1,365.00*	*$1,820.00*
Excursion Levy	*$150.00*	*$300.00*	*$450.00*	*$600.00*
Technology Levy	*$505.00*	*$1,010.00*	*$1,515.00*	*$2,020.00*
TOTAL 2027 School Fees	**$3,975.00**	**$5,206.00**	**$6,443.00**	**$7,686.00**

In 2027 Levies per Student will be: Education/Curriculum Levy of $455.00
Excursion/Incursion Levy of $150.00
Technology Levy of $505.00
(Yr 5 & 6 students only) Sport Levy of $130.00
(Yr 3, 4 & 6 students only) Sacramental Levy of $50.00

Please Note: Grade 6 Students Only - Camp costs will be invoiced during Term 1, 2027

School fee payments paid directly to the Cana school bank account, please quote your unique 6 digit Account Code as reference

BSB: 083 347 Account Number: 563 101 059

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT – for School Fees paid in full before 25th March 2027 (End of Term 1)

$50 Early Payment Discount is available to families who choose to pay their school fee account in full ***before the end of Term 1***.

If paying 2027 school fees in full before the end of Term 1, please reduce your payment by $50

Alternatively, Families paying by regular instalments throughout the year must comply with the following payment due dates:

PAYMENT DUE DATES	AMOUNT REQUIRED TO BE PAID
1st Instalment Due Date: 25th March 2027	*25% of total annual Fee & Levies paid by end of Term 1,2027*
2nd Instalment Due Date: 25th June 2027	*75% of total annual Fee & Levies paid by end of Term 2, 2027*
FINAL Due Date: 17th September 2027	***Balance paid in full no later than end Term 3 2027***

Families can choose to pay school fees by regular instalments either Weekly, Fortnightly, or per Month
Payments can be paid either by direct debit/EFT to the school bank account or by EFTPOS at the Cana Front Office
School Fees are required to be paid in full no later than end of Term 3, 2027

If required, School Fee Payment Plans need to be arranged with the School Bursar at the commencement of Term 1, 2027.

An appointment is required to arrange a Payment Plan Meeting. Please telephone the school Office on 8390 9200 if you require a Payment Plan appointment.

Alison Bretag
Principal

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NOTICE OF 2027 SCHOOL FEES

Payment Requirement Schedule

To ensure that you maintain your payment schedule, please refer to the table below as a guide, to assist with identifying the required level of payment required for your family structure.

Students per Family	Annual Fee/Levies *Excluding Sports, Sacramental levies, Camp fee*	Early Full Payment Discount		Payments by Instalments per Term Due Dates			
		*Early Payment Discount * Eligibility requires annual fee paid before end Term 1*	Payment required by 2/04/2026 * to claim Early Payment Discount	Term 1 Instalment Required by **25th March 2027** ***25% of annual fees***	Term 2 Instalment Required by **25th June 2027** ***50% of annual fees***	***Total Amount paid** by end Term 2 to meet 75% payment required*	Term 3 Instalment Required by **17th September 2027** ***25% of annual fees***
1 child	$3,975.00	*-$50.00*	$3,925.00	$993.75	$1,987.50	*$2,981.25*	$993.75
2 children	$5,206.00	*-$50.00*	$5,156.00	$1,301.50	$2,603.00	*$3,904.50*	$1,301.50
3 children	$6,443.00	*-$50.00*	$6,393.00	$1,610.75	$3,221.50	*$4,832.25*	$1,610.75
4 children or more	$7,686.00	*-$50.00*	$7,636.00	$1,921.50	$3,843.00	*$5,764.50*	$1,921.50

Above table is based on standard school fee charges. Charges for Sports Levy and Sacramental Levy are not included as these charges are not for all year levels. Families with students in Years 3, 4, 5, or 6 will need to allow for additional levies as outlined on page 1.

* Eligibility for $50 early payment discount applies when the total annual school fees charged are paid in full before the end of Term 1.

If paying by instalments please consider the level of payment required, as outlined above, to be paid by each due date.

If a Payment Plan is required, please contact the Cana Catholic Primary School Front Office to arrange for a private meeting with our School Bursar to discuss Payment Plan Options. Payment Plans provide maximum benefit when arranged early during Term 1.