FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Tuition fee Discounts

In all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools, tuition fee discounts are available to families eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance. The scheme offers tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families; 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 from 2011. 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 requested 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 has been confirmed, you will be informed that Family Fee discounts are available; and to access the discount, parents/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 Education Maintenance Allowance.

Eligibility

For the purposes of this scheme discounts are available to holders of a means tested Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and who are eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance. Centrelink issues a number of cards for a variety of reasons. For some cards the income test requirements are stringent whilst for other cards it is 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.

If you receive a Health Care Card during the school year but after Term 1, the reduced fee will apply on a pro-rata 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 and the additional amount charged.

Educational Maintenance Allowance

The State Government Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is normally used to offset other charges such as subject levies, camps and excursions (the allowance in 2011 is $230 – parent portion $115 & school portion $115).

If you are not eligible for the Family Fees Assistance discount and are experiencing financial difficulty, you should apply for fee assistance through the school Principal. You may be asked to provide information to assist the school in assessing your individual claim for assistance.
FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Family Name: ________________________________

Student Names: ____________________________  Year: __________

__________________________  __________________

__________________________  __________________

__________________________  __________________

__________________________  __________________

I am eligible and have claimed the Education Maintenance Allowance. I wish to apply for the Family Fee Assistance Scheme fee concession offered by the Catholic Education Office, Ballarat and make the commitment to pay $520 for family and capital fees. I understand that I am still required to pay all other fees as required including the student fee, swimming programs, school camps, excursion fees, school and LRC bags and the grade 5 dictionary.

I/We are eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance and have completed an application form  Yes / No

I/We wish to apply for Family Fee Assistance under the Diocesan scheme  Yes / No

Signed: ________________________________  Date: __________________________