

School Fees – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do our fees increase each year?

Our fees increase for two main reasons:

The first one is due to the new Gonski model of funding implemented by the Federal Government that assesses schools on their community's capacity to pay. This is measured by our Socio-Economic Status (SES). Here in Applecross we have one of the highest SES numbers in the state and our current rate of fees does not match what the government has calculated as our capacity to contribute is so we need to work gradually towards it.

The second one is that our costs rise each year with inflation and salary increases. The increase helps us to maintain our quality teaching, teacher assistant and administration staff structures that serve us so well, along with providing our students with resources that they need.

2. What if the three options of paying fees don't suit my circumstance?

Here at St Benedict's we understand that everyone's financial situation is different, please make an appointment with the principal to discuss your situation and a plan can be developed to meet yours and the school's requirements.

3. What if I am having trouble paying my fees?

From time to time for one reason or another families may be finding it hard to pay school fees and as a Catholic organisation we are sympathetic to this. Just make a confidential meeting with the principal to discuss your situation and alternative arrangements can be made.

4. What does the amenities part of my fees cover?

At St Benedict's the Amenities Fee contributes to the costs of many items such as:

- consumables e.g. art supplies and paper
- classroom curriculum resources e.g. teacher resource books, equipment for hands on learning like puzzles, blocks and dice etc.
- deferred maintenance e.g. painting, carpets or replacement and repair of loose furniture etc.
- payment of utilities

5. I have to buy my child an I-Pad, how come I still have to pay an IT levy?

There are many costs associated with IT that just don't pertain to hardware. At St Benedict's the IT Levy contributes to the costs of:

- substantial fees charged to us by CEWA that help with IT on a system level ranging from support (both technical and curriculum) and infrastructure at CEWA around Leading Lights (formerly Cathednet).
- onsite costs and maintenance of our own infrastructure e.g. Wi-Fi charges, cables, globes for projectors and projector replacement and our onsite IT provider.
- continual upgrading of school hardware and software e.g. K-2 I-pads, class laptops, LCD screens, Apple TVs etc.

We hope this information has helped us to continue to create transparency and understanding around our fees and charges.