



COVID-19 SCHOOL FEES AND CHARGES POLICY 2020 Financial Assistance Measures

Dear parents and carers,

This letter communicates the College's policy in relation to school fees for 2020. This letter is co-signed by the Principal and College Board Chairman, Devon Wynne, as it represents the school fees and charges policy effective during this period of COVID-19 pandemic, as approved by the College Board.

This COVID-19 period represents unprecedented change for schools, with students working off-site, at home, using curriculum prepared by the College. Thank you to all families for their support and flexibility over the last month. It has been a whirlwind period and the school community has been exemplary. We will continue to provide high quality teaching and learning resources, communication, and support to families, to enable the "at home" curriculum to continue throughout Term Two and beyond.

There have been numerous enquiries in relation to school fees. Recently, the College Board met and discussed the financial situation for 2020. It is the "heart" of the Board, and Principal, to retain all enrolments for the 2020 school year. It is understood that COVID-19 restrictions will impinge negatively on the economy, and that many families will be affected by financial pressure. The Board would like to communicate that all families are valuable to the HillSide community, and that our Christian intention is to support families financially, particularly those who are under financial stress as a result of income loss.

School fees and charges are integral to a private school because government only provides a portion of funding. Our 2020 fees and charges will be directed towards providing teaching and learning programmes for your children. This letter addresses the way in which the College will continue its operations, and how the financial structure in 2020 will work.

Therefore, the College Board has resolved the following principles and actions:

- HillSide started this year with 350 students. It is the desire of the Board that no family loses, or withdraws, its enrolment due to financial pressure caused by this pandemic. It is the Board's intention to have 350 students still enrolled at the end of the 2020 school year if possible. In summary, no student should need to leave because of the COVID-19 impact, and families will be supported on this basis;
- The College will provide assistance to each family that has been impacted by COVID-19 in 2020;
- The Board is committed to retaining families, with each application for financial assistance assessed and supported on its own merit. Every circumstance is different, and this can be assessed personally, with the best solution provided;
- The Principal has been delegated the authority, by the Board, to make extensive financial support available at his discretion according to this policy;
- Any family that experiences financial stress, should make written application for financial support using the *Application Form* provided. The *Application Form* is available by emailing: schoolfees@hillside.wa.edu.au or in PDF format at this link:

<https://www.hillside.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-School-Fee-Respite-Application-2020LOW.pdf>





- The Principal will arrange an assessment of all applications, and develop a workable financial plan for those families making application. Applications for assistance should be emailed to schoolfees@hillside.wa.edu.au;
- Parents and carers who remain employed (as per normal) in 2020, where full income is retained, should continue to pay their full school fees. This supports the College to educate students, provide services, and continue operations;
- School fees and charges amounts will remain unchanged for 2020. That is, there will be no general reduction of the school fees and charges schedule. Discounts and financial assistance will be applied for those needing particular financial support;
- School fees and charges for 2021 will be reviewed by the Board in the months ahead, and will be set according to the economic climate presenting.

Therefore, if any family experiences job loss, or significant reduction of income as a result of COVID-19 impact, they will be supported. It is a very difficult financial period, and it will probably worsen. The two simple principles are: that any family that is in financial need will be assisted on a case-by-case basis, and; that any family, which can still support itself, should continue to pay normal school fees.

The College is still operational even though students are not on-site. The Board has been overwhelmed by the extraordinary work of staff, and by the effort that has been shown by parents, carers, and students during the COVID-19 period. For many weeks, in addition to regular workload, staff has worked tirelessly to provide work and communication. They have developed online curriculum materials promptly, and planned programmes of work that have ensured uninterrupted education. Staff will continue to support families by providing a full, home-based curriculum, with high levels of communication and interaction. They are doing a wonderful job in the present circumstance, and will continue to do so into next term. Thank you to parents, carers and students for your continued support and work up to this point. The collaboration between staff, students and carers has been excellent, and a resolve to continue the supportive partnerships will stand HillSide in good stead.

Should you have any financial issues or questions in relation to your school fees, please email schoolfees@hillside.wa.edu.au. Mrs. Karen Christmas will liaise with the Principal to address all enquiries and need.

Finally, as we enter the Easter period, we would like to encourage the school community to remember the work and love of Jesus. His journey in the final weeks of His life until His crucifixion reminds us that we have a God, who is acquainted with our sorrows and joys. He lived fully human, and experienced the highs and lows of life. However, it was impossible to keep Him down! His resurrection on the Sunday powerfully displayed His majesty and now provides hope for the world. As we adapt and change through this period, we would hope that each family would know the surpassing and inexpressible love of God, in Christ, which is inextricably linked to the Easter story. God bless every family and circumstance.

Regards,

Mr. Stephen Lamont
Principal
8th April, 2020

Mr. Devon Wynne
Board Chairman