

## **POLICY: School Fees and Concessions policy**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline Brisbane Catholic Education's (BCE) principles for the setting and collection of school fees and for deciding fee concessions by BCE schools. This policy will ensure a consistent approach across the system, one that is fair to families and that allows all students to access a Catholic education and all aspects of the curriculum.

This policy must be read in conjunction with: School Fees and Concessions procedure; School Fees and Other Income Administration procedure; and Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane Code of Conduct.

### **2. RATIONALE**

The Church's duty toward the poor obligates Catholic schools to make a Catholic education available to all students whose families seek a Catholic education for them, regardless of financial capacity. As a result, schools are challenged to balance financial accessibility with the need to provide high quality educational services in line with BCE's vision, mission, and values.

### **3. POLICY STATEMENT**

BCE recognises the significant contribution that individual schools make to the costs of education through the generation of private income that includes payment by families. Families support the education of their child by paying fees as a necessary contribution to the costs of delivering Catholic education. The Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) recognises diversity in the capacity of families to contribute to these costs. To address this, BCE promotes a needs-based funding distribution model.

### **4. PRINCIPLES**

- **Accessibility:** BCE schools are open and accessible to all families who seek our religious and educational values regardless of financial capacity and ensure all students have access to all aspects of the curriculum, including school functions and activities
- **Responsibility:** BCE schools are responsible for setting school fees, concessions, and terms for the collection of fees in accordance with BCE procedures. Parishes and School Consultative Committees e.g., school board, should be kept informed of the BCE requirements each year during the budget process
- **Affordability and needs-based:** as government and the BCE system allocates funds to schools based on need and given the principle of accessibility, BCE schools must consider the capacity of families to pay when setting fees and concessions
- **Confidentiality:** all information pertaining to school fee arrangements with parents, guardians, and students must be maintained as confidential.

### **5. REFERENCES**

- Australian Education Act 2013
- Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane Code of Conduct
- School Fees and Other Income Collections procedure.