

Tuesday 11 August, 2020

Dear Parents

These unusual times call on all Australians to respond and contribute in often demanding circumstances. Parents have been asked to support their children's education by accompanying them in their remote learning program. The able skills of our school leaders and teachers have shaped these programs using creative and engaging learning opportunities across a range of technological platforms. Such contributions have required flexibility and immediate response, with little notice and a minimum period of preparation. It is with much appreciation that the contributions of parents, principals and schools are recognised in ensuring that the continuity of learning for our students is maintained.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a marked financial impact on many families. It is the commitment of all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ballarat that Catholic education will continue to be available to all families irrespective of the financial demands imposed on families at this time.

Fees are an integral source of income for schools to ensure that staffing, utilities and other operational costs are met. These costs continue, irrespective of whether on-site or remote learning and teaching is undertaken. The [Family Fee Assistance Scheme](#) has been implemented across all Catholic primary schools in the Diocese of Ballarat. Families who hold a means tested Health Care Card, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran Affairs Pensioner Card qualify automatically for the scheme and pay a discounted fee of \$520 per annum (\$10 per week) for primary school tuition fees. For more details please contact your children's school directly.

If you are not eligible for the Family Fee Assistance discount yet are experiencing financial difficulty at this time, please contact your child's school so that confidential financial support arrangements can be explored to enable their ongoing education.

It is the combined efforts of parents and school personnel that will ensure that our children feel safe and enjoy the normalcy that familiar school procedures and routines can offer. It is the continued hope that the committed effort of all people will contribute to the lifting of restrictions and a return to the freedoms we all enjoy.

Yours truly



Director of Catholic Education (Interim)