

FEE POLICY AND SCHEDULE 2024

INTRODUCTION

Victory Christian College is dedicated to providing quality, caring and affordable Christian education to the Bendigo and surrounding district community. The College is an independent school that receives Federal and State Government funding, but requires payment of fees by parents to ensure the continued day-to-day operation of the College, and to contribute to the capital improvement of facilities.

In line with the College philosophy and objective to provide an affordable Christian education, fees are kept to an amount that is manageable for most family incomes. Substantial discounts on tuition fees are offered for the second and subsequent children enrolled in the College.

PAYMENT OF FEES

College fees are invoiced in November for the following year. Upon commencement of the school year, families are required to be on a fortnightly direct debit payment plan. The payment plan consists of 21 fortnightly instalments commencing on the first Thursday in February and ending mid-November. An additional payment, if required, will be made at the end of November to clear any outstanding balance. Families can click on this link to set up a payment plan: <https://tinyurl.com/VCCFeePaymentPlan>

Victory Christian College requires that fees are:

- Paid in fortnightly instalments via direct debit, with the amount advised in writing by the Finance Office.
- Payments made on a weekly or monthly basis are permitted by prior arrangement with the Business Manager.
- Failure to pay annual fees may result in cancellation of enrolment and/or accounts being forwarded to a debt recovery agency. In this instance, families will be responsible for all associated costs.
- Statements are emailed monthly.
- The College does not discount fees because of student absence or family holidays.
- School camps and overseas experiences are charged out on a 'break-even' basis. As such, accounts should be up to date, to guarantee participation.
- Fees are expected to be paid in full by the 30th of November of each school year.
- Families experiencing temporary difficulty in paying College fees are asked to please contact the Finance Office immediately.
- Where there is a history of significant arrears in fees, the College may place families on a 'Stop Credit' arrangement. When on 'Stop Credit', families must pay each term's fees and levies in advance, prior to each term commencing. This allows enrolment to be maintained without accumulating further arrears or enrolment cancellation.

ADEQUATE NOTICE PERIOD

- **One term's notice is required when a child leaves the College.**
- **Two terms' notice** is required for students exiting at the end of **Year Ten** (end of Term Two) This amount of notice is required to enable the College to plan for its VCE Program.

ENROLMENT APPLICATION FEE

A fee of \$100.00 is charged only once per family to cover administrative costs of enrolment. This fee is payable on submission of the Enrolment Application Form and is not refundable. Families enrolling second and subsequent children at the College do not need to pay this again.

BUILDING FUND DONATION

The Building Fund was established to develop and maintain the College's buildings and facilities. Generous donations from families and supporters in the past have enabled us to continually upgrade and develop our buildings and amenities. Ongoing development to accommodate anticipated growth is underway to provide our students with excellent facilities for their education. The College invites families to donate a minimum of \$100.00 per year to this fund. All donations paid to the building fund are fully tax deductible. Your donation by 30th June will enable you to claim the tax deduction for the current financial year. Click on this link for Building Fund Donation: <https://tinyurl.com/VCC-BuildingFundDonation>

DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

Note: Discounts and Rebates are not accumulative. Families receive one discount/rebate only.

Early Payment Discount

A 10% tuition fee discount is offered to families paying their **total annual** fees by 31st March. Families wishing to apply for an Early Payment Discount should follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/VCCFeePaymentPlan>

Fee Rebate for Health Care Card Holders

The College offers a rebate on tuition fees for families with Health Care Cards or Veteran Cards. The rebate only applies while families are valid recipients of this card. The rebate for 2024 is 10% of tuition fees. Families should click on this link to apply for HealthCare Card Discount: <https://tinyurl.com/VCChealthcard>

Please note, Health Care Card must be in the parent/guardian's name (not the child's name.)

CSEF - The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (Government Subsidy)

CSEF is a Government Program that provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like school camps, swimming and school organised sports programs, excursions and incursions. Health Care Card Holders are eligible.

Application Forms are available from the Administration Office and applications close end of June each year.

- Primary student subsidy: \$125
- Secondary student subsidy: \$225

The CSEF will automatically be applied to those families who have completed the Health Care Card Discount form-see above (<https://tinyurl.com/VCChealthcard>)

Special Needs Fee Rebate (Financial Hardship)

The College recognises that, in response to exceptional financial circumstances or family situations, some families may experience temporary difficulty in paying their tuition fees. Where this situation arises, families can apply for 'Special Needs Fee Rebate' assistance. In these circumstances the College requires the completion of a detailed financial questionnaire available from the Finance Office, along with attendance at a financial interview involving the Business Manager.

Once pertinent financial information and family circumstances are ascertained, the application is submitted to the College Board for assessment. The Board's decision is final. Following the Board's approval, the Special Needs Fee Rebate will be applied to the family's account with the College. This rebate is regarded as a temporary measure and will be adjusted as changes in circumstances permit. This rebate is for the year of application only. Applications for 'Special Needs Fee Rebate' will be considered by the Board as the need arises, but no more than once per term.

When considering rebate applications, the Board must follow guidelines set to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of rebate allocation. The Board can give up to a maximum rebate of 30% on tuition fees.

Families receiving fee rebates are expected to meet their payment schedule, which will be set in consultation between the family and the College's Finance Office.

Volunteer Hours Discount Policy

It has long been recognised that the assistance of parents, helps to enhance our College Programs. Assistance includes listening to children reading, Library work, canteen roster, committee & sub-committee membership, supervision on sports days, camps, excursions, and participation in Parent and Friends activities.

This policy, which is reviewed annually, defines the number of volunteer hours each family can contribute to their fee reduction, and provides a range of approved activities (above) through which families can be engaged in. The limit for 2024 is set at 10 hours per annum from each family, at a set rate of \$25.00 per hour and a maximum of \$250.00. This amount is credited off accounts, as parents/carers participate in approved activities.

Volunteer hours are collected by the Administration Office and tallied each term. The Finance Office then credits off the appropriate amounts for each family.

In this way, the College can provide flexibility for families to contribute their time, acknowledge valuable involvement in a wide range of activities, and provide an avenue for parents to reduce their fees.

All volunteers must be approved after completing the Volunteer Induction process which includes Child Safety training. To complete this process, please email volunteer@vcc.vic.edu.au

Conveyance Allowance (Government Subsidy)

Students attending VCC may be eligible for financial support through the Conveyance Allowance Program to assist with the cost of transport. The Conveyance form is required to be completed on an annual basis.

To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance:

- A student must reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the College, and for private car and public transport travel, families must complete an application to the College. Click on this link to apply: <https://tinyurl.com/VCCConveyanceAllowance>
- VCC Bus Service travellers must submit an annual Conveyance Allowance application to be considered for a seat. They can do so by clicking this link to apply: <https://tinyurl.com/VCCConveyanceAllowance>
- The Department of Education and Training (DET) pays the Conveyance Allowance to the College for distribution to families.
- For students using VCC Bus Services, the College will use Conveyance Allowance funds received from DET to reduce the cost for the College and for families. All eligible VCC bus travellers must apply for the Conveyance Allowance and authorise the College to retain the allowance.
- If a family does not meet the DET’s eligibility requirements for the Conveyance Allowance, a seat on the VCC Bus Service may be offered for a fee of \$50 per child, per term. This fee is charged to family accounts at the end of each term.
- Public transport applications must include proof of purchase of a half-yearly or yearly Victorian Student Pass.
- For private car and public transport travel, the College will allocate the full amount received from DET against the family School Fee Account.

RELEVANT RESOURCES

- Building Fund Donation Form, <https://tinyurl.com/VCC-BuildingFundDonation>
- Conveyance Allowance Form, <https://tinyurl.com/VCCConveyanceAllowance>
- Fee Payment Plan Form, <https://tinyurl.com/VCCFeePaymentPlan>
- Health Care Card Holder Discount Form, <https://tinyurl.com/VCChealthcard>

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- College Handbook
- Enrolment Policy
- Volunteer Policy

CONTACT DETAILS	ENQUIRIES
Victory Christian College 6 Kairn Road, Strathdale VIC 3550 P: 5445 2600 www.vcc.vic.edu.au	Please direct enquiries to the following: Enrolment enquiries: enrolment@vcc.vic.edu.au Fee enquiries to Ambit Pradhan: ambitpradhan@vcc.vic.edu.au General enquiries: admin@vcc.vic.edu.au Office Hours are Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

2024 SCHEDULE OF FEES – SUMMARY

Year Level	Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
Tuition Fees	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,820	\$3,820	\$3,820	\$3,820	\$3,930	\$3,930
Levies	\$600	\$630	\$630	\$750	\$750	\$900	\$900	\$1,230	\$1,230	\$1,460	\$1,460	\$1,770	\$1,770
Camps	\$30	\$45	\$220	\$330	\$330	\$360	\$360	\$500	\$570	\$650	\$850	\$nil	\$nil
Total Cost per Year	\$4,200	\$4,245	\$4,420	\$4,650	\$4,650	\$4,830	\$4,830	\$5,550	\$5,620	\$5,930	\$6,130	\$5,700	\$5,700

Levies assist in covering the cost of the following items:

- Facilities and equipment
- Student resources and consumables
- Excursions, sport and co-curricular activities
- Subject-specific charges
- IT hardware and software.

TUITION FEES AND SIBLING DISCOUNTS				
Year Level	1st Child	2nd Child	3rd Child	4th Child
Prep	\$3,570	\$2,500	\$1,070	No tuition fees charged for fourth and subsequent children (Levies and camp charges still apply.)
Year One and Two	\$3,570	\$2,500	\$1,070	
Year Three and Four	\$3,570	\$2,500	\$1,070	
Year Five and Six	\$3,570	\$2,500	\$1,070	
Year Seven and Eight	\$3,820	\$2,670	\$1,150	
Year Nine and Ten	\$3,820	\$2,670	\$1,150	
Year Eleven and Twelve	\$3,930	2,750	\$1,180	

DISCOUNTS & REBATES
Discount for Low Income Health Care Card Holders: 10% discount on tuition fees.
Discount for Fees Paid in Advance: 10% discount off the tuition fees component is given when the full year's fees are paid by 31 st March 2024.
Volunteer Hours: 10 hours per family at a set rate of \$25 per hour. Maximum rebate: \$250.
Special Needs Rebate: Maximum rebate 30% on tuition fees
Conveyance Allowance: Travel subsidy for families who live more than 4.8 kms from the school. Paid quarterly. and applied to Fees.
CSEF: Applications must be received by end of June. Primary \$125 Secondary \$225

OTHER FEES & CHARGES
Private Art & Music Lessons: Will be invoiced separately and are paid on invoice.
VRT Racing Events: Will be invoiced separately and are to be paid on invoice.
Overseas Trips: Optional overseas trips for secondary students. Will be invoiced separately and are to be paid on invoice.

METHODS OF PAYMENT
Direct Debit: Click on this link to set up a payment plan: https://tinyurl.com/VCCFeePaymentPlan to have fees automatically debited from your nominated bank account. Preferred payment frequency is fortnightly.