



COLLEGE FEES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why have Siena College Fees increased over the years?

The Finance Committee and the College Board work collaboratively to ensure fees are increased in line with anticipated funding and expenditure commitments.

Some of the major considerations include:

- The significant increases in College expenditure (including insurance, loan and interest repayments, maintenance, curriculum delivery and resources, excursions, buses, building rental/leases, infrastructure maintenance and development, cyber security, Work Cover and staffing costs)
- The financial impacts of the new Multi-Employer Agreement
- The introduction of payroll tax
- Shortfalls in recurrent Government funding

The table below summarises the Siena College fee increases over the past six years:

Year	Fee Increase
2019	5.0%
2020	6.5%
2021	2.0%
2022	3.5%
2023	6.25%
2024	14.5% *
Average Fee Increase	6.29%

* Note that the 2024 fee increase also included a payroll tax component.

During the pandemic, the College Board kept fee increases minimal and provided over \$1 million in COVID fee support to all families.

In October the Board will determine the 2025 College Fees, closely considering the operating and infrastructure expenditure of the College in conjunction with the Government imposed payroll tax, COVID levy and mental health levy.

What is Payroll Tax?

Siena College, along with other Catholic systemic schools, has been classed as not-for-profit for many years and consequently has not been subject to payroll tax obligations. However, in 2023, the College was advised by the Victorian Government that our payroll tax exemption would be revoked effective 1 July 2024, requiring us to pay 5.85% on salary and salary related expenses (e.g. superannuation, leave, etc.) from that date.

The College will continue to advocate for the removal of this government-imposed tax.

How is Government Funding determined?

The government determines funding by assessing the median income of the families whose daughters attend the College. This income assessment is translated into a 'Capacity to Contribute' (CTC) value for the school. The higher the CTC, the greater the capacity – as assessed by the government – of its parent community to contribute via fees rather than government funding.

The 2025 CTC for Siena remains unchanged at 115.

In comparison to other like-schools in varying locations, a CTC between 103 and 107 can attract \$3,000 to \$4,500 more per student in government funding.

In these challenging economic times in Victoria, funding for non-government schools may be impacted further in the coming years. The Finance Committee and College Board are monitoring this closely.

How do Siena College fee increases compare to other schools?

It is difficult to compare fee increases and the financial position of other systemic schools with Siena College as all schools receive different government funding. As mentioned above, the government funding Siena College does receive is affected by the school community's 'Capacity to Contribute'.

It is important to note, that some schools similar to Siena College, opted to invoice payroll tax separately in 2024, rather than incorporate it into fees. In 2025, Siena College will itemise this separately per student.

What is the Facilities Fee?

The methodology for calculating a capital fee is not the same at all schools. At Siena College, Facilities Fees (previously known as the Capital Fee) are used to offset capital related expenditure of the College, contributing to building infrastructure, occupancy, maintenance, loan and interest repayments, garden and grounds, cleaning, building regulation, security, licences fees, leases, etc.

The Facilities Fee is charged per family to minimise the burden on multi-sibling families who are paying multiple tuition fees.

What continues to make Siena College a school of choice?

Siena College is well known for its promise of excellence in girls' education, underpinned by the Catholic, Dominican tradition of truth and love for all. Siena students are challenged and supported to reach their highest aspirations, equipped to make their mark on the world, for good.