CATHOLIC BISHOP'S OFFICE DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

4 November 2026

To: **Parents/Caregivers of Diocesan Catholic Secondary School Students**
From: **Bishop Michael Gielen**
Re: **2027 Attendance Dues and Catholic Special Character Contribution**

Dear Parents/Caregivers

I write to confirm the diocesan secondary school Attendance Dues and Catholic Special Character Contribution rate for 2027, and provide a brief explanation of these items:

	2027
Attendance Dues	**$1,100.00** (plus GST) **per annum** ($275.00 plus GST, per term)
Catholic Special Character Contribution	**$60.00 per annum** ($15.00 per term)

Attendance Dues

Attendance Dues are a legal charge and not a donation. Attendance Dues are for property related costs, including compliance costs, school building works, loan repayments, building insurance and costs directly associated with the administration of attendance dues.

Catholic Special Character Contribution

The Catholic Special Character Contribution (CSCC) is a voluntary contribution. As such it is exempt from GST and is tax deductible; a 33% refund can be claimed from the IRD. The CSCC helps fund of the following services: Religious Education (RE) Advisory Services, Catholic Special Character Evaluation Service, Catholic School Principal Support Service, Catholic Special Character Advisory Services, the Catholic Theological College's academic papers for RE teachers, the *Having Life to the Full* Course for Health teachers.

No contributions are made by the Government for attendance dues matters or CSCC services.

If you are experiencing hardship (loss of income/redundancy, family reasons, etc.) and need some financial support you are encouraged to approach your school principal to discuss your circumstances. Please be assured that the diocese is committed to continuing to provide quality Catholic education at as reasonable a price as possible.

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I thank you for your dedication and commitment to educating your child(ren) in our Catholic schooling system. Your commitment speaks to your faithfulness and echoes the faithfulness of God who commanded our ancestors to let future generations learn, and enable them to grow up to trust God, to remember great deeds, and to cherish the law (Psalm 78). I thank you for the sacrifices you make for your children, so that they might come to learn within their Catholic school; to learn and develop as part of their spiritual self; to learn and develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. Your children are greatly blessed by your love and care for them.

I thank you for your ongoing support, and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your family.

Yours faithfully



+ Michael Gielen
Bishop of Christchurch