



Fee Billing and Collection Policy

Contact Person/s: Head of Business Operations

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1. Rationale

- 1.1. Immanuel Lutheran College is a P–12 College. It provides a comprehensive and high -quality education program which challenges students to achieve academically, physically, spiritually and to develop social and emotional resilience. Extensive facilities, diverse resources and expanding technologies support teachers to work collaboratively to ensure the students are learners with a commitment to excellence across all endeavours. The College Council, through its governance and policy oversight, ensures the College meets its goals and remains financially viable. It has developed this Fee Billing and Collection Policy to provide guidance and a framework for the setting and collection of fees, particularly to support those families who contribute and have contributed over many years to the development of a successful Lutheran school.
- 1.2. Families choosing to send their children to this school understand and accept a commitment to pay the school fees and charges billed to their account.
- 1.3. All families are expected to make full and regular payments in accordance with the fee schedule.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all families enrolled in the College.

3. Reference

- 3.1. Fee Schedule.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. *School Fees*: Refers to all tuition and levies charged by Immanuel Lutheran College from time to time unless otherwise stated.
- 4.2. *Payment Plan*: Refers to a formal agreement between an account holder and Immanuel Lutheran College. The agreement will contain agreed payment terms such as the amount and term of the plan. Direct Debit arrangements through Westpac Payway are considered a formal payment plan.

5. Responsibilities

- 5.1. The management of fee billing and collection is the responsibility of the Head of Business Operations with certain responsibilities being delegated to Business Office staff.
- 5.2. Any decision to deviate from standard policy and procedure rests with the Principal, on behalf of College Council.

6. Policy

6.1. Our Belief

The charging of fees and levies allows for the provision of a high quality education for students at Immanuel Lutheran College.

6.2. Determination of Fees

- 6.2.1. While the Commonwealth and State Recurrent Grants provide some income for the college, the other main source of income is from school fees. The school fees enable the College to provide relevant programs, specialised resources and qualified staff. The payment of school fees is the shared responsibility of all families.
- 6.2.2. School Fees are charged per student and include tuition fees plus a resources, mobile device and camp levy.
- 6.2.3. School Fees do not include uniforms.
- 6.2.4. School Fees are set annually by resolution of the College Council.
 - 6.1.4.1 The fees may be varied by resolution of the College Council.
 - 6.1.4.2 Families are officially advised of any fee change/s.
 - 6.1.4.3 Sibling discount percentages are set by the College Council.
- 6.2.5. Other charges, such as instrumental music tuition, extra-curricular activities etc, are reviewed annually and determined by the Principal or his/her delegate.
- 6.2.6. Each parent/guardian is jointly and severally liable for all fees, levies and any other charges.
- 6.2.7. Termination of the enrolment contract for any reason other than those outlined within the said contract must be advised in writing with at least one full term's notice. If such notice is not provided, one full term's tuition fees will be charged in lieu of notice.

6.3. Fee billing cycle and payment due dates

- 6.3.1. Fees are billed half yearly and payable in advance. Parents who are unable to pay their invoice by the due date may apply for a formal direct debit arrangement.
- 6.3.2. Discounts are available for families who chose to pay their annual fees by no later than the first Friday of Term One of each year.
- 6.3.3. Each semester's fees are due no later than the first Friday of each semester.
- 6.3.4. All fees for the year are to be paid in full by no later than the Friday prior to the end of the Year 12 academic year.
- 6.3.5. Levies are non-refundable.

- 6.3.6. A student may not be permitted to commence a new school term at Immanuel Lutheran College unless the school fees for the previous term have been paid in full or parental/guardian meet with the Head of Business Operations to agree on a formal payment plan. The Principal, may grant an extension of time if there are extenuating or exceptional circumstances. Immanuel Lutheran College reserves the right to withhold School Reports and Year 12 Leaver's Statements should fees remain unpaid at the end of the school semester.

6.4. Fee Collection

- 6.4.1. School fees, and other monies due to the College, can be paid by cash, cheque, credit card (Visa or Mastercard), EFTPOS, BPay or Direct Debit.
- 6.4.2. When school fees remain unpaid by the due date, the College will communicate with the family to make appropriate arrangements for payment of any overdue fees.
- 6.4.3. Failure to make payment or contact with the Business Office within 14 days of the account being due will result in an administration charge being applied to the account.
- 6.4.4. In the interest of social justice and equity for the fee burden across all families, if an account becomes overdue and the family has not made contact with the College to discuss their situation or make arrangements for payment, then it will be deemed that a commitment to meet the debt is not evident and the College will initiate procedures to recover the debt, which may include the use of the College's Commercial Agent.
- 6.4.5. If the account owing to the College becomes overdue and is referred to a commercial agent for collection proceedings, parents will be charged all expenses incurred by the College with its Commercial Agent.
- 6.4.6. Should a family fail or refuse to make arrangements for payment with the Head of Business Operations, the Principal has the discretion to exclude a student, permanently or temporarily, from the College or College events.
- 6.4.7. The College reserves the right to limit or deny participation in optional programs, such as interstate or overseas trips, events and functions that incur user pays charges if school fees are in arrears.

6.5. Leave of Absence

- 6.5.1. Parents may request an extended leave of absence due to extenuating circumstances. In this context it is the intention of the parents and the College to maintain the enrolment during this time.
- 6.5.2. Extended leave resulting in the holding of an enrolment place can only be granted by the Principal of the College for a duration not exceeding six months. Any extended leave of absence must be requested in writing not less than one school term prior to the commencement of the leave period.
- 6.5.3. If the leave of absence is equal to or greater than one term, then parents may request a reduction of their fees to 50% of the tuition fees for the full

term in which their child is absent. This discount is not available for any leave of absence less than one term. The definition of a full term is the first day to the last day of any term – there is no discount for leave of absences spanning between terms.

- 6.5.4. The mobile device levy would still be applicable as per the rental agreement and not discounted whilst the student is on leave of absence.

6.6. Fee Concession

- 6.6.1. The College may, at times, grant arrangements whereby families can make reduced but still regular payments during a period of financial difficulties by entering into an ***agreed payment arrangement***. This is normally reviewed within 6 months with the expectation of a return to higher payments to achieve full payment of the total fees.
- 6.6.2. Families, who are experiencing ongoing financial hardship, may apply for a ***reduced payment (Concession) plan*** on tuition fees only.
- 6.6.3. A reduced payment (Concession) plan may be granted provided that the family meets the criteria and commits to and makes regular payments towards levies and any outstanding balance.
- 6.6.4. If granted, the agreed (Concession) plan will be applied to the period not exceeding the current school year.
- 6.6.5. A reduced payment (Concession) plan is normally for one year and is not provided for more than 3 consecutive years.

6.7. Scholarships and Bursaries

- 6.7.1. Scholarships and Bursaries are typically only applied to tuition fees (i.e. excluding levies) for successful candidates.
- 6.7.2. Scholarships and Bursaries are offered to students who meet established school performance criteria.
- 6.7.3. The Scholarships and Bursaries budget is established by College Council annually and administered operationally by the Principal.

7. Associated Documentation

7.1. Fee Billing and Collection Procedure