



To: Parents/Caregivers of Catholic Primary School Students

From: Bishop Paul Martin SM

Re: 2020 Attendance Dues and Catholic Special Character Contribution

21 August 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers

I write to confirm the diocesan primary school attendance dues and Catholic Special Character Contribution rate for 2020 and provide a brief explanation of these items:

	2020
Attendance Dues	\$330.00 (incl GST) per annum (\$82.50 per term)
Catholic Special Character Contribution	\$50.00 per annum (\$12.50 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.

If you are experiencing hardship (loss of income/redundancy, family reasons, etc.) and need some financial support you are encouraged to approach your parish priest to discuss your circumstances.

By way of background information, in 2019 the average diocesan Catholic primary school attendance dues charge throughout New Zealand is \$458.20 and over the coming years we will be required to progressively move towards this national rate.

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 is important as it ensures:

- our Religious Education (RE) teachers are qualified and receive up-to-date professional support for RE, our prime curriculum area in a Catholic school;
- our teachers understand and deliver our Catholic perspective on the NZ Health Curriculum;
- our principals and teachers receive ongoing support in their role and in their duty to uphold and enhance the Catholic Special Character of the school;
- we are able to review our Catholic schools to confirm they uphold and enhance the Catholic Special Character values that lie at the heart of our Catholic schools.

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

Please be assured that the diocese is committed to continuing to provide quality Catholic education at as reasonable a price as possible.

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

Yours faithfully

+ Paul Martin SM
Bishop of Christchurch