



2024 FEE SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

SCHOOL FEES

Each year the College Board determines fees after considering the needs of the College to provide exemplary and inspiring Catholic education whilst managing the cost to parents.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
General Tuition Fee 2024	\$16,327	\$16,631	\$16,971	\$17,190	\$17,385	\$18,236

The Non Tax Deductible Capital Fee per family is \$3,030.

Compulsory School Fees are inclusive of General Tuition Fee, Capital Fee and the State Government imposed combined payroll tax.

General Tuition Fees per student are structured to include all compulsory curriculum costs, College camps, retreats, reflection days, and extended learning activities along with all entry fees and other related costs required in the delivery of education.

Capital Fees are charged per family. This charge is used to offset all Capital related expenditure of the College each year and is *not* tax deductible. Only donations to the College Building Fund or College Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

The College employs a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program to support the learning needs of students. Students are able to bring their own device from home or can purchase one from a retailer of their choice or through the College's partnership with CompNow. All devices must meet minimum specification requirements.

The General Tuition Fees and Capital Fees are invoiced in line with parents/guardians' nominated payment plan. Students admitted to the College during the school year are charged fees on a pro rata basis.

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The annual setting of school fees is the responsibility of the College Board after annual recommendation from the Finance Committee. The fee-setting process will take into consideration and reflect the required level of finance to maintain excellence in education as well as the overall socio-economic status of the school community. Factors such as government funding, payroll tax obligations, inflation, interest rates, employment related costs and capital investment are major considerations when determining an appropriate level of school fees to be charged to families.

Fee structures and billing procedures will be kept as simple and streamlined as possible. These structures and procedures will be communicated to parents/guardians via the Annual Fee Information available on the Siena Central Parent Portal and College website.

Instructions on how to use Siena Central can be found on the College website: www.siena.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/parent-video-tutorials

DISCOUNTS

Sibling Discount

A Sibling Discount is offered to families with more than one daughter enrolled at the College concurrently. The following discounts apply to **General Tuition Fees** only:

- Second daughter 5%
- Third daughter 10%
- Fourth and subsequent daughters 50%

Annual Payment in Advance Discount

An offer is extended to all current and incoming families to elect to pay the following year's fees in advance. Payment of the annual school fees in full by the designated due date will receive an advance payment discount of 3%, which is subject to annual review.

2024 FEE SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Siena College provides parents/guardians with the following instalment options for the payment of school fees:

- **Annual payment in advance**, which attracts a 3% fee discount if paid before the designated due date. The annual payment discount is approved by the College Board each year.
- **Termly or monthly instalments via the College.**
- **Alternative instalment payment options with Edstart** who can offer termly, monthly, fortnightly and more flexibility with payments plans. Visit edstart.com.au/siena to learn more.

Parents/Guardians can select their preferred payment plan via Siena Central during the nominated payment plan selection period. The Finance Office can be contacted on 9835 0220 for any queries.

Families paying in instalments via Edstart will be issued four termly statements prior to the commencement of each school term. Parents/Guardians are required to observe and honour the payment due dates as indicated on school fee statements issued by the College unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Finance Office.

Annual statements will be issued at the commencement of Term 1 for families opting to pay annual in advance.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Annual fees and other charges can be paid via Siena Central. The College administers all credit card transactions in accordance with privacy and banking legislation.

The 'Payment Plan' module of the Finance dashboard will be open for a period of three weeks towards the end of each school year for parents/guardians to select their preferred payment plan for the following school year. Parents/Guardians will be advised of these dates by the College. The 'Make a Payment' module will remain open all year for families to make once-off payments for additional charges (e.g., music lessons, overseas trips, etc.), using credit or debit cards.

School fees can be paid by the following methods:

- **Credit card payment (MasterCard and Visa):** either via automatic payments set up during the payment plan selection window towards the end of each year, or via the 'Make a Payment' module on the Finance dashboard of Siena Central.
- **Direct Debit payment from your nominated bank account:** this must be set-up during the payment plan selection window towards the end of each year.
- **BPAY:** using a Net Bank facility to transfer funds using the Siena College Biller Code of 14852 and the Reference Number as detailed on your Annual School Fees Notice or Fee Statement.
- **Cheque:** made payable to Siena College and returned to the Finance Office attached to your Annual School Fees Notice or Fee Statement.
- **EFTPOS/Cash:** the College has debit and credit card payment facilities available at College Reception.

Annual in Advance

The College's preferred methods of fee payment for annual in advance are credit card and direct debit payments administered by the College, set up during the payment plan selection window. Credit card information and nominated bank account details for direct debit payments can be securely entered on Siena Central via the Finance dashboard. The Finance Office can be contacted on 9835 0220 for assistance with entering this information.

Instalment Payments

Termly or monthly instalments are payable through the College. Alternative and more flexible instalment payment options are available via Edstart. Payments can be via direct debit, debit/credit card or BPAY. Edstart products include Edstart Plus which is currently free for Siena College families to use. For more information, visit edstart.com.au/siena



2024 FEE SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES, MUSIC ACCOUNTS AND OTHER CHARGES

These charges are invoiced throughout the year and costs are advised prior to registering for nominated activities. Statements will be emailed to parents/guardians and published on your Siena Central Finance dashboard. Examples of these optional activity charges include instrumental music, national or overseas trips, padlocks, canteen vouchers, extra-curricular sporting goods and activities, and student ID card replacements.

If you have elected to have your school fees automatically charged to your credit card or directly debited from your nominated bank account, these optional charges will be added to your next fee instalment – you will be notified via email prior to payment being automatically processed.

It is the College's position that participation in optional activities involving significant expense, such as instrumental music, music camp, national or international trips, is conditional on the tuition fees being paid up to date.

NON PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

The College Board endeavours to assist parents/guardians as much as possible by minimising the impact of fee increases, however, to maintain this position parents/guardians are urged to ensure fees are paid promptly.

As both parents/guardians are required to sign the confirmation of enrolment, it is expected that arrangements for payment of school fees will be honoured. It is not the role of the College to pursue parents/guardians individually for payment.

Fees are strictly due and payable by the due dates listed on issued fee statements. Where school fee accounts are in arrears (or an approved payment plan is not adhered to), a student will not be permitted to undertake optional activities such as instrumental music, music camp, national or international trips, and tours. The Principal reserves the right to refuse to allow students to either commence a new term, or to remain at the College, while any fees or charges remain unpaid.

When fees are in arrears, written, electronic or telephone contact will be made with parents/guardians by the Siena College Finance Office. Records will be maintained of all communications with parents/guardians regarding fee accounts. Every effort will be made to ascertain the ability of parents/guardians to pay outstanding fees, and payment plans will be negotiated where appropriate.

Procedures to enable the collection of outstanding school fees will be enacted when parents/guardians who appear to have the capacity to pay fees refuse to do so, or when parents/guardians consistently refuse to engage in good faith discussions regarding their financial situation. Where no evidence of hardship or special circumstances can be substantiated, Siena College may engage a recognised debt collection agency or issue a solicitor's letter. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for any consequential costs incurred in connection with the attempted collection of outstanding school fees.

Failure to reach a satisfactory arrangement from the debt collection process will be followed by the initiation of legal action and the seeking of judgement against the party or parties involved. Legal action involving the court system will be sought as a last resort for the collection of outstanding school fees.

ENROLMENT

Application for Enrolment

Applications for entry to Siena College from Year 7 to 12, must be submitted using the Application for Enrolment Form on the College website. A non-refundable Application Fee of \$220 is payable when the application is lodged with the College. The student's name will be registered as the Applicant following the receipt of the completed Application for Enrolment Form and the Application Fee.

Enrolment applications for Year 7 to 12 are subject to the outcome of an interview conducted by the Head of Admissions and the Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy.



2024 FEE SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Confirmation of Enrolment

Following the application process, and subject to the College Enrolment Policy and position availability, a formal offer will be made. Parents/Guardians are then required to sign and return the acceptance offer for their child with a non-refundable confirmation fee of \$1,000. The person/s signing the Acceptance Agreement is/are completing an agreement to abide by the Siena College Fees Policy Terms and Conditions and Business Regulations. The College Enrolment Offer includes an agreement on payment of fees and acceptance of College policies.

To forecast the following year's budget and related staffing needs, parents/guardians of current students will need to confirm enrolment for your daughter/s on Siena Central. A reminder email will be forwarded to all parents at the end of Term 3 each year. Data from this form will enable the College Timetabler to assign students to classes for the following year in advance. Parents/Guardians who indicate that a student is not returning need to follow the procedure as set out below under Student Withdrawal from the College.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COLLEGE

It is a condition that a **minimum of one term's notice**, presented in writing and addressed to the Principal, be submitted to admissions@siena.vic.edu.au where a student is to be withdrawn from the College. The College is entitled to recover a term's fees calculated from the date of acceptance by the Principal.

VOLUNTARY BUILDING AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

As a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican Tradition, we are grateful for the generosity of our parents/guardians, alumnae, staff, students and friends of Siena College who support our vision for now and the future. The Siena College community makes a difference through Annual Giving, Bequests, Capital Appeals and our Equity Scholarship Fund. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is valued and appreciated.

Families may choose to donate to the College Building Fund to support the building program or to the College Scholarship Fund to support the provision of equity-based scholarships. Your support of equity-based scholarships will enable girls who would otherwise be unable to attend Siena College to become a part of our College community.

The Siena College Building Fund and the Siena College Scholarship Fund are endorsed as deductible gift recipients (DGR) under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. All donations (\$2 or more) to the Building Fund and the Scholarship Fund are eligible for a tax deduction via the donor's annual income tax return.



2024 FEE SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Staff Discounts

As a general principle, staff employed at Siena College will be provided with a discount for the enrolment of their daughter/s at Siena. This is reviewed annually and will take Fringe Benefits Tax implications into consideration.

Fee Variation for Financial Hardship

The Board of Siena College recognises and supports families who are suffering genuine financial hardship. The Application for Fee Variation process is a confidential, fair, and equitable system that considers all factors in the assessment, including but not limited to household income, assets, liabilities, and commitments. All applications for fee variation will be assessed by the Head of Finance and Services. Where it is deemed appropriate, a suitable concession to school fees may be applied.

Payment of Future Fees in Advance (One Year)

Siena College offers families the option to pay one year's future fees in advance. Payment of one year's future fees in advance is accepted with the following provisions:

- Fees quoted will be the Board approved fee schedule by year level. Fees quoted include General Tuition Fee, Capital Fee and any further applicable charges.
- The percentage discount offered for annual payment in advance is not offered for the year in advance.
- There will be no further annual fee increases invoiced in the subsequent one year.
- Families will be required to pay for additional/extra-curricular charges such as music tuition and overseas trips.

If your daughter's enrolment ceases at Siena College during the prepayment period, a pro-rata refund will be calculated from the beginning of the next term after her exit.

Holding Fees

If a place is held for a student who has an approved extended absence from the College, the following criteria and ruling will be applied:

- If the absence is for one term or less, there is no reduction in school fees payable.
- If the absence is for more than one term, a non-refundable holding fee of \$1,500 will be charged and a reduction of a pro-rata amount equivalent to the length of absence will be calculated and applied.

Split Family Fee Accounts

Family fee accounts will only be split on the condition that both parents/guardians sign a change of status form and a declaration of joint and several liability for Siena College school fees. This declaration can be provided by the College upon request. Following the receipt of the signed declarations by both parties, Siena College will undertake to split the family fee account.

VCE over Multiple Years

If a student has an approved extended time to complete VCE studies, a pro-rata amount of school fees will be calculated on the basis of number of subjects enrolled in per year.