



STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE

Bursary Policy

Star of the Sea College is a Catholic Independent Girls' school, founded by the Presentation Sisters in 1883. Since 2014, Star of the Sea has been a member of Kildare Ministries.

Rationale

Star of the Sea College is proud of its strong history and its commitment to providing quality education underpinned by the legacy of Nano Nagle. It is recognised, however, that financial constraints for families/carers can make it difficult to access a Star of the Sea College education. This policy seeks to offer a transparent process in which to support both existing families experiencing financial hardship and families who otherwise would not have the financial means to send their daughters to Star of the Sea.

Importantly the Bursary Program provides a mechanism for those currently within the Star Community, as well as those from our alumni community, to consider making a philanthropic donation. "Deeds not Words", is a living expression of the Star vision. The philanthropic dimension of the Bursary program is a practical expression of Nano Nagle's legacy.

Objectives

Bursary program

The Bursary program, as contained within this Bursary Policy, has the following objectives:

- To ensure access to a Catholic education for those in need
- To increase the diversity of the student body
- To enact the College values of nurturing compassion and community and that of Nano Nagle's legacy

Eligibility

The Bursary Program has the objective of providing educational opportunities for girls from socially and economically diverse backgrounds. The Bursary program covers tuition and capital fees only.

The Bursary Committee determines the duration of each bursary. These recommendations are subject to regular review.

The Bursary program is open to the following students:

- Current and prospective students who need support due to financial hardship
- Students from an Indigenous background,
- Students from a refugee background

Three separate Bursaries have been developed to bring the Bursary Program to fruition.

Financial Hardship Bursary

Current and prospective families experiencing genuine financial hardship who are in need of assistance to pay their school fees may apply for the Financial Hardship Bursary. Students who are currently enrolled in Star of the Sea's priority parishes (parish feeder schools for secondary enrolment, as defined by Catholic Education Melbourne) and students who have a Presentation connection through their relatives but who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend Star of the Sea are encouraged to apply for this bursary category.



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bursary

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bursary category was created in response to the under representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled at Star of the Sea College. Students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander on their enrolment form are eligible to apply for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bursary.

Refugee Bursary

This bursary ensures that children who are refugees to Australia have access to a high-quality education, such as that provided at Star of the Sea College. The Refugee Bursary is designed to make a difference to the lives of refugee families who have been living in our community less than three years and who require additional support to establish their lives in Australia. To be eligible to apply for a Refugee Bursary:

the applicant/s must:

- be the student's fee payer;
- hold a current, valid humanitarian visa that is compliant with the humanitarian visa categories; and
- must have arrived in Australia, or been living in the Australian community within the previous three years; and
- the student or students must hold a current humanitarian visa that is compliant with the humanitarian visa categories, as identified on their enrolment form.

Criteria

To ensure transparency and equity, the Bursary Program will:

- be means tested, as determined by the Financial statement completed by the applicant/s in the Bursary Application
- have a financial cap on assistance – such as a specific a number of supported years, determined by the Bursary Committee and subject to review
- contain no set targets in terms of the number of bursaries granted each year, or in terms of dollar value of assistance granted. On occasion, no bursaries may be awarded if no eligible application has been made to the College.

General Information

The Bursary Program is supported through tax-deductible donations to the Bursary Fund and by the Enrolment Application fee for all students.

The Finance Committee will also recommend a budgeted allocation towards this fund, which is reviewed annually taking into account the circumstances and the overall financial viability of the College.

The Finance Committee will ratify decisions of the Bursary Committee, with the College Board providing the final approval.

The names of successful applicants will remain confidential.



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How to apply for a Bursary

You will need to request an application form from Star of the Sea College.:
finance@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

Once the application form has been completed, with supporting documentation for your assessment, return the application form to the Principal.

If there are any questions relating to the completion of the application, please also contact the College for help with the process.

Responsible Officer	Principal
Approved by	Chair of Board
Approved and commenced	April 2020
Review by	November 2024
Relevant Legislation	Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
Related Policies & Procedures	Bursary Policy Enrolment Policy Fees Policy Privacy Policy
Version	6
Amendments to version	Updated MACS policy reference