



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED: 2026 COLLEGE FEES FAQs

Why are my fees increasing?

At Siena College, the Finance Committee and College Board work collaboratively to ensure that our school fees reflect both the funding we receive and the real costs of operations. Some of the major factors influencing school fees include:

- Significant increases in College costs such as insurance, loan and interest repayments, staffing and on-costs, curriculum delivery and resources, excursions, buses, building rental/leases, infrastructure, cyber security and maintenance.
- The financial impacts of the new Enterprise Agreement.
- Payroll tax for schools.
- Ongoing shortfalls in recurrent government funding.

Looking ahead, the Board will continue to determine future fees, carefully balancing the community and the College's needs.

As with all Catholic Victorian Schools, we are affected by ongoing Enterprise Agreement negotiations, which we expect to increase salaries and in turn, operational expenses.

To balance this reality, we consistently review our operating models ensuring every decision is made with consideration and care, so we can continue to provide your daughters with the best possible education and support.

What is payroll tax?

Payroll tax is a state government tax that schools pay on the total wages they pay their staff. For Siena, this is a significant cost because it applies to our teachers, support staff and administration.

For many years, Siena College, like other Catholic systemic schools, was recognised as a not-for-profit organisation and therefore exempt from payroll tax.

The Victorian Government ended the exemption on **1 July 2024** and from that date, the College has been required to pay up to **5.85% on all salary and salary-related expenses** (including superannuation and leave).

Additionally, Enterprise Agreement negotiations will continue to affect this fee, as higher salaries will attract higher payroll tax. This change places significant financial pressure on the College, which, in turn, adjusts our fees. In the best interests of our families and students, we continue to strongly advocate for the removal of this government-imposed tax.

Siena will continue to **itemise payroll tax separately per student**, so that families have a clearer understanding of how this government requirement impacts College costs.

How does government funding affect our College?

Government funding for non-government schools is based on the **median family income** of the school community. This calculation gives each school a '**Capacity to Contribute**' (CTC) value, which is used to determine the balance between government funding and parent contributions through fees.

The higher a school's CTC, the less government funding it receives. For 2026, Siena's CTC remains at **115**. By way of comparison, schools with a CTC between **103 and 107** may receive an additional **\$3,000–\$4,500 per student** in government funding. As it would in any school, this difference makes a significant impact on its operations.

How do Siena College fees compare with other schools?

Comparing Siena's fees with other schools is not straightforward, as each school receives different levels of government funding. The funding we receive is directly influenced by our community's '**Capacity to Contribute**' rating, as outlined above.

What does the facilities fee include?

Every school calculates capital fees differently. At Siena College, the **Facilities Fee** (previously called the Capital Fee) helps us maintain and improve the spaces where our students learn, grow and thrive. This includes classrooms, science and arts facilities, outdoor spaces, grounds, security and all the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the College safe, welcoming and well-equipped.

The Facilities Fee is **charged per family rather than per student**, helping to reduce the financial impact on households with multiple students at the College.

What won't change?

Siena College is renowned for providing an education that inspires every student to excel, grounded in our Dominican values of truth, compassion, and respect for all. Our intentionally sized school means students are seen, known and supported to discover their strengths, pursue their passions, and develop the confidence and values to make a positive impact in the world. We will continue to provide the best possible experiences for our students, families and community and we thank you for your ongoing support.