



Fundraising policy for St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

Philosophy

It is recognised that the benefits of fundraising must be balanced with the impact on the school community in terms of the effort involved in organisation and the financial burden on parents/carers.

As Catholic schools are part of the mission of the church, it is appropriate that they engage in social action and social justice activities which are both educative and practical in outcomes. Such activities should occur within the structures, ethos and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Whole of School" Fundraising

Any fundraising that targets the whole school must have School Board approval in advance.

"Whole of school" means the fundraising advertising goes out across the school, not just within an organising group. This definition applies whether the funds are used for the whole school, charities or a group within the school.

The School Board will have regard to:

The nature of the proposed activity/event

The purpose for which the funds are to be used and expected benefit for the school

Financial and any other impacts/obligations on students, parents/carers and school staff

The number of other fundraising or school events and their timing

The issue of equity across the school

The commitment and capacity of the organising group to conduct the fundraiser effectively; and where a charity is involved – the charity(ies)' purpose, reputation and bona-fides

All approved fundraising activities are to be documented in School Board Minutes.

Fundraising guidelines:

Preference in fundraising should always be given to official agencies of the Catholic Church. It is expected that the school support:

1. **International: Caritas Australia** (e.g., Project Compassion, Junior Joey's sister school in Peru)
2. **National: Caritas**
3. **State: Archbishop's Charitable Fund & St Giles**
4. **Local: The St Vincent de Paul Society** (e.g., End-of-Year Hampers & Winter Appeals).

Support for other agencies should be assessed using the following criteria:

- Is the philosophy of the organisation in accord with gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching?
- Is the organisation associated with the Catholic Church and its ethos? If not, is there a Catholic organisation engaged in similar activity that could be supported?
- Does the activity lend itself to an educational focus (e.g., does it assist students to participate in and understand the Mission of Jesus and the Church)?
- Are there high quality educational resources to support the activity which promote students' understanding of poverty and marginalisation?
- Is the fundraising undertaken in a context of spirituality and prayer?
- Is the organisation accountable for its use of funds including administration costs?
- Does the organisation tie the use of funds to religious or political affiliation or purposes?
- Are those involved in the decision-making and administrative processes aware of the aims, background and authenticity of those receiving their donations?

It is important to note that funds raised for a particular organisation or purpose must be given to that organisation or purpose. They cannot be diverted to another purpose after they are raised.