Belmont Christian College

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Clergy Fee Discount Policy

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1. College Vision & Purpose

The College's vision, since inception, is that we might be a Christian community which seeks to nurture and train young people to grow up into Christ. Underpinned by this Legacy Vision, our daily educational purpose reads as follows:

'For Christ, we are shaping engaged, purposeful people, whose lives impact families, communities and culture'.

We exist in the day-to-day to enact and outwork this purpose, applying it not only to our students but also to staff and parents/carers.

Guided by our vision and purpose, our College Values are intentionally embedded in the daily work of partnering with families to deliver a Quality Christian Education. As a community, we are called to continually grow in the biblically grounded values of thankfulness, humility, compassion, courage and perseverance, which in turn shape our policies and procedures.

The Statement of Doctrines & Beliefs is the primary doctrinal authority of the College and underpins all policies, procedures and practices.

2. Biblical Rationale

Belmont Christian College is founded on the biblical framework outlined in the College Statement of Doctrines & Beliefs. In partnership with families seeking Christian education, the College seeks to ensure its policies, expectations, and community standards reflect biblical truth.

Expectations of conduct are grounded in Scripture. The ethical framework reflected in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–17) affirms principles such as integrity, respect for authority, honesty, faithfulness, and care for others, further expressed in Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbour (Matthew 22:37–39).

These principles guide the standards expected of students, staff, and families, and underpin the College's commitment to a safe, responsible and Christ-honouring community.

The College celebrates a biblical rationale in support of local families committed to pursuing a Quality Christian Education, irrespective of their current financial situation. The following passages of scripture highlight a small sample of bible passages for the outworking of the College' Vision and

Purpose, with a specific focus on those in need of additional support and care, combined with those who are in a position to be generous:

- **Micah 6:8**
  "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- **Philippians 2:3–4**
  "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves."
- **Matthew 28:19-20**
  Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you
- **James 1:27a**
  Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction
- **James 3:17–18**
  "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."
- **Colossians 3:17**
  "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."
- **Matthew 19:14**
  Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

3. Introduction

With the aforementioned College Vision & Purpose in mind, Belmont Christian College is committed to making a Quality Christian Education as affordable as possible for families who are pursuing a Christian Education and actively align with and support our legacy vision, purpose and values.

For families in paid ministry work (clergy), College fees may not be affordable. The College seeks to support ministry families who are dedicating their lives to furthering the gospel in the wider community. To demonstrate the College' support of the valuable Kingdom work undertaken by those in church ministry roles, BCC offers a 50% capped clergy fee discount to ministry (clergy) families.

4. Clergy Fee Discount Governance & Reporting

The total amount set aside in the College operational budget for Clergy Fee Discount is determined annually by the total number of successful new Clergy Fee Discount applications in the current year, combined with the total number of Clergy Fee Discount Applications that have been approved across previous years. When combined, these total successful applications (i.e. new plus ongoing) equate to the operational budget required to maintain the 50% Clergy Fee Discount for that current year.

As part of the budgeting process, the College Business Manager will annually project operational costs associated with the Clergy Fee Discount.

Operational cost projections will be directly related to the total number of clergy/ministry families currently attending the College at the time who have successfully applied and been accepted for the Clergy Fee Discount. Operational cost projections will therefore change/alter on an annual basis.

4.1. The College Board has oversight of the Clergy Fee Discount Policy, the assessment process and budget, delegating authority to the Business Manager.

4.2. The BCC Finance Team supports the Business Manager with the day-to-day administration of the Clergy Fee Discount online application process.

4.3. The Business Manager will annually report to the Board via the operational budget on total Clergy Fee Discounts provided and the total number of families who received the 50% discount.

4.4. If the dollar value given in Clergy Fee Discount is higher compared to the annual operational budget projections, the Business Manager will inform the Board of the difference at the next meeting.

5. Eligibility for Clergy Fee Discount

5.1. The Clergy Fee Discount is available to families in paid ministry with students in Pre-Kindergarten (Beginners) to Year 12 and is limited to Australian citizens and permanent residents.

6. Making an application

The applicant will complete and return the online Clergy Fee Discount Application form. The Business Manager, supported by the Finance Team, will review the application and may request additional information or clarify points with the applicant. If the Business Manager believes the applicant has met all the criteria, they will offer the Clergy Fee Discount to the applicant.

The Business Manager will advise the applicant of the outcome of their application and this will be tracked via the online CRM system, thus retaining a record of communication. The Business Manager may, at their discretion, reconsider offering the discount to the applicant at any point during enrolment of the applicant's child/ren if any of the requirements are not met or it becomes apparent the applicant is no longer substantially engaged in a ministry/pastor role at a compatible Christian church. In summary:

6.1. For paid ministry families, an online Clergy Discount Application Form must be completed, with supporting information provided.

6.2. On request, required support documentation includes written confirmation of paid ministry employment as per Section 8 of the Clergy Fee Discount Policy and official documentation of relevant theological training.

6.3. The information provided will be confidential to relevant personnel and will be kept according to the College Privacy Policy.

6.4. The outcome of the Clergy Fee Discount application will be advised in writing to the applicant by the Business Manager.

7. Terms and conditions - Clergy Fee Discount

7.1. Acceptance of a Clergy Fee Discount from the College automatically indicates acceptance of the following terms as set out below.

7.2. Agree to uphold and maintain the Belmont Christian College Statement of Doctrine & Beliefs.

7.3. Recipients of the Clergy Fee Discount are expected to commit to the full College year of tuition.

7.4. The Clergy Fee Discount, once granted, is guaranteed ongoing and does not require annual reassessment, but is subject to 7.7, 7.9 and 7.10 of the Clergy Fee Discount Policy

7.5. Acceptance of the Clergy Fee Discount recognises that an Enrolment Family Holding Deposit will not be refunded.

7.6. Where the balance of College fees are to be paid, this must be done in accordance with the Enrolment Contract and Fee Statement.

7.7. The Clergy Fee Discount is provided at the complete discretion of the College and is subject to the ongoing availability of funds. The College reserves the right to annually reassess the percentage discount on offer for the Clergy Fee Discount program, should the College be adversely impacted by unforeseen financial circumstances.

7.8. If recipients of the Clergy Fee Discount require further assistance beyond the 50% clergy discount, they can apply for a means-tested Bursary

7.9. The applicant agrees to notify BCC if the applicant is no longer substantially engaged in a ministry role at a compatible church and/or recognised Christian organisation.

7.10. Where a Clergy Fee Discount recipient has misled the College in its application for the 50% discount, the College reserves the right to withdraw Clergy Fee Discount backdated to the commencement of the discount period. In such circumstances, an applicant's future eligibility for the 50% discount will be adversely affected. The College reserves the right to recover discount assistance that was provided from false or misleading information.

7.11. If an applicant's Clergy Fee Discount application is refused, the applicant may request to have this decision reviewed by the College Board.

8. Guidelines & Definitions

For families in paid ministry work, College fees may be out of reach. The College seeks to support ministry families who are dedicating their lives to furthering the gospel in the community.

To demonstrate the College' support of the valuable Kingdom work undertaken by those in church ministry roles, BCC offers a fee discount to ministry families.

Belmont Christian College offers a 50% reduction of tuition fees to ministry families enrolling their children at the College where a parent/carer holds a relevant theological qualification and is substantially engaged in a paid ministry role at a Christian church or recognised Christian organisation.

Missionaries are generally completely reliant on the generosity of others for their living expenses. For this reason, the College provides a 100% discount on tuition fees to support missionaries. This is usually in the context of furlough and the students only stay at College for 3 to 12 months.

Definitions

Compatible church - means a Christian church in the Protestant, evangelical tradition holding a doctrinal position consistent with the Statement of Doctrines and Beliefs. (As per Section 79 of BCC Board Constitution)

Ministry role – means that the applicant's position must include a pastoral and teaching element such as pastors, children's ministers and youth workers. It does not cover administrative or support staff.

Relevant theological qualification – refers to a formal qualification that is applicable to the applicant's ministry role. It must be from an accredited Christian theological institution but may be either degree or diploma level. The requirement to hold a relevant theological qualification may extend to include applicants that are nearing completion of their qualification.

Substantially engaged – means that the applicant's ministry role is generally their primary source of income. It is expected that the applicant will be engaged in the ministry role for a minimum of three days however the Business Manager may consider special circumstances when assessing this criterion.

9. Supporting documentation

- Belmont Christian College Enrolment Policy, which can be found here.