

# THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS' TRUST

Partnering with others to grow Christian education to the Glory of God



Aidanfield Christian School



Ashburton Christian School



Middleton Grange School

8 April 2024

The Christian Schools Trust  
30 Acacia Ave  
Upper Riccarton  
Christchurch

Dear parents, caregivers and families

## 2025 Attendance Dues for Ashburton Christian School

The Christian Schools Trust (CST) is Proprietor of four integrated State schools. Unlike State schools, where the government pays for and owns the land and buildings, parents who choose to send their children to an integrated State school contribute to the cost of land, buildings, and associated expenses such as interest and insurance, by paying an annual compulsory fee called attendance dues.<sup>1</sup> Attendance dues must fall within a maximum amount agreed between the school and Ministry of Education, the current maximum gazetted amount for the school is \$1,725.00 (inclusive of GST).

Like many organisations and families at this time, CST is facing significant cost increases, particularly insurance and interest costs. Insurance costs across our schools have increased 57% from 2022 to 2024 and we anticipate continued annual increases over the next few years. Total interest costs will more than double from 2022 to 2025. These costs cannot all be absorbed by the Trust and need to be covered by an increase in attendance dues.

At this stage, given the uncertainty around interest rates in 2025, we are providing parents and caregivers with a clear indication of the minimum amount they will need to pay in 2025, and also the projected maximum amount they may need to pay next year. We will confirm attendance dues for 2025 in November 2024. Please see below for minimum and maximum rates:

	2024	2025 min	2025 max
Ashburton Christian School	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,700

We appreciate the maximum amount is a sharp increase compared to recent years. To help ease pressure on costs, the Trust is deferring major capex projects for the next few years to effectively reduce the necessary rate of increase in attendance dues.

<sup>1</sup> Attendance Dues are collected by the CST from parents/caregivers for every child that is enrolled in one of our schools. The funds are used to pay property related costs such as construction projects and fees, other capital works, insurance, building warrant of fitness, debt servicing, loan repayments, and the administration of collection of attendance dues.

**Rolleston**  
Christian School

**Cornerstone**  
Christian Early Learning Centres

## **Family Budgets**

For families who wish to budget for 2025, we recommend you plan on the maximum rate noted above for attendance dues, that is, \$1,700.

The Trust will endeavour to keep the level of attendance dues as low as possible for 2025, subject to how interest rates are tracking in the latter part of 2024, but recommends you plan for the highest cost. Should you have any queries, please contact us at [admin@cst.org.nz](mailto:admin@cst.org.nz)

## **Family Discount**

Families with three children or more at the one school at the start of the school year will receive a family discount. The discount for three children is \$100 per child, for four children the discount is \$150 per child and for five or more children the discount is \$200 per child.

## **Financial Hardship – can you help a family in need?**

Over the next couple of years, we are anticipating an increase in the number of families asking for help to pay their attendance dues. If you are in a financial position to be able to donate money to help another family in need to pay their attendance dues or a part of their attendance dues, please consider giving to our hardship fund.

Please go to [Give \(cst.org.nz\)](https://cst.org.nz) and complete the online form, which will ensure we have the necessary information to send you a donations tax receipt. Please also add your family name and "donation" in the bank reference when making your payment.

Bank details for donations: The Christian Schools Trust 02 0874 0182984 001

## **Financial Assistance**

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can apply for financial assistance at [Financial Assistance \(cst.org.nz\)](https://cst.org.nz). Applications for financial assistance for 2025 will close on 31 October 2024. We will review all applications in November 2024 and be in contact with applicants by early December 2024. We have limited funds to apply to financial assistance so we cannot guarantee support, but we will endeavour in good faith to help you as much as we are able alongside the needs of all other applicants.

Thank you for your partnership in the education of your children within a caring school community where faith in Jesus Christ and the truth of Scripture is central to who we are and all we do.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hannen  
The Christian Schools Trust