



ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
4044 NELTHORPE STREET, VICTORIA, BC V 8X 2A1
PHONE: 250-727-6893; FAX: 250-479-5423

PRACTICING CATHOLIC TUITION APPLICATION

TUITION INFORMATION

Reason for Tuition Fees

The Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria (Island Catholic Schools) is recognized by the Ministry of Education as a Group I Independent School. This means that we are able to have the maximum funding available to an Independent School (50% of the per-student operating costs of the local public school district). These are partial operating costs only and do not cover costs for capital expenditures such as buildings, computers, desks, etc. Therefore, tuition fees, donations, and fundraising are required to provide adequate resources for the school's operational budget.

Reason for a "Practicing Catholic" Tuition Rate

Island Catholic Schools accepts practicing Catholic, non-practicing Catholic, and non-Catholic students. Both Catholic and non-Catholic families pay tuition and indirectly support the school through government grants (we all pay taxes!). Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Victoria provide funding for schools in a variety of ways. Parishes initially provided the capital outlay to build the schools and now assist with funding for major capital expenditures. Practicing Catholic families participate in the parish's financial support of the schools. Because of this, a two-tiered tuition rate has been set which reflects that those families already supporting the school financially through their own parish should enjoy some benefit from a lower tuition rate. Stated the other way, a family who is not active in a Catholic Church which financially supports our schools, should, in fairness, play an equally supportive role in the area of school finances by paying higher tuition.

There is a reason, therefore, for having a Catholic family vouch that they are active in a parish that supports Island Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria. This attempts to uphold the integrity of the policy of a two-tiered tuition rate.

Parishioners of the Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Victoria financially support Catholic schools to a total annual amount of approximately \$190,000 through weekly collections and through the Annual Appeal. It would be unfair to expect the parishes to subsidize families who are not in turn sharing in the financial responsibilities of the parish.

If a non-practicing Catholic or non-Catholic family pays a higher tuition rate, it must be because the practicing Catholic families are supporting the school through their contribution in the Sunday collection on a regular committed basis. Otherwise, it would be blatantly discriminatory to charge people different tuition rates simply on the basis of religious practice.



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PRACTICING CATHOLIC TUITION RATE CRITERIA

A qualifying Practicing Catholic for tuition rate purposes is a family actively involved in a parish affiliated with the Diocese of Victoria. The Practicing Catholic family shares its Time, Talent, and/or Treasure with their parish. Ultimately, attending Mass weekly is key.

- Time:** Time is a gift from God... The questions for us are: how will we use that gift and will we use it to build up our community? The most basic way is returning to God a portion of that gift by responding to the Catholic guideline that we make every effort to join our community in prayer at a weekend Mass. Time can also be shared by attending parish functions or helping with the many chores and simple tasks that make up Parish life.
- Talent:** There is a whole array of special tasks in a Parish that need people with a special interest in doing them. They can range from taking on a special role at Mass to visiting a sick person serving in various leadership roles, or simply offering one's expertise when there is a special project. An organizational chart of the Parish is available which depicts all these different areas and the people responsible for them.
- Treasure:** One of the guidelines given to us by the Church is that we accept responsibility for the financial support of our local Parish. This can be done by using the parish donation envelope, pre-authorized debit, and contributing to the best of one's ability. To what extent a family can do this will vary with individual circumstances.

How to request the Practicing Catholic Tuition Rate:

Each year, during re-registration, Practicing Catholic Tuition Rate Requests are completed by each family in order to receive the discount.

Parishes will be sent a list of participant families and contact information, and the Pastor/Parish may set up a meeting to discuss active involvement.

If you are new to our Diocese, please include your previous parish information and the parish where you intend to register.

In requesting the subsidized Practicing Catholic Tuition rate, you are affirming the practice of your faith, as identified above.



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PRACTICING CATHOLIC TUITION RATE REQUEST
SCHOOL YEAR: _____

If you meet the requirements as outlined in the Practicing Catholic Tuition Rate Criteria, complete and submit this form to the school.

Parent's name: _____

Student name(s): _____

School(s): _____

Catholic Parish: _____

Registered or attending for how many years? _____

We are involved in the following parish ministries and/or parish groups:

By answering "YES" to the following statements and submitting the form, we are requesting the Practicing Catholic Tuition Rate.

We have read the criteria and qualify for the Practicing Catholic tuition rate and understand that our contact information will be shared with the Pastor/Parish YES NO

We attend Sunday Mass weekly YES NO

We contribute financially to the parish YES NO

We use direct deposit YES NO OR we use envelopes YES NO envelope # _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

NOTE: Should you not qualify at this time please disregard this form. Should your situation change, you may apply next year.