



## Sacred Heart School, Petone

*Te Kura o Ngākau Tapuki Pito-One*

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Wednesday 6 November 2019

### The Donations Scheme

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

You may be aware that the Government has announced it will remove voluntary fees for schools which sit at decile seven, or below. The *Donations Scheme* has now been finalised by the Ministry of Education, and schools have been asked whether they will opt into, or out of the Scheme for 2020.

Sacred Heart Petone is a decile seven school – putting us at the highest decile of the schools considered for the *Donations Scheme*.

Currently the school asks parents at Sacred Heart Petone for a donation of \$100 per child (with discounts for subsequent children within the same family). Under the *Donations Scheme* the school will not be allowed to ask parents and caregivers for this donation. However, parents and caregivers will still be able to make donations to the school of their own volition.

The school also asks parents and caregivers for a \$100 activity contribution per child, per year at the school. This activity contribution goes towards funding school activities such as swimming lessons in term one, bus trips to Te Papa, the Marae visit, Porirua pool for Feast Day, Hutt Science membership and the school picnic in term four, as examples. We ask for this money instead of asking you to pay a small amount for each trip. Under the *Donations Scheme*, the school will not be allowed to ask for this activity contribution either.

Instead, the Ministry will provide the school with \$150 per child which must cover all expenses. The school will still be able to fundraise, and ask for money for some items such as school camp, stationery provided by the school, a RE curriculum resource contribution (collected on behalf of the Proprietor) and tech materials (Year 7&8 only).

It is up to the Board to decide whether the school will opt in, or opt out of the Scheme. We have carefully considered both options, and looked at the school's finances. It is very important to note that while parents will be much better off under the *Donations Scheme*, the school's financial position will not be better off, remaining largely neutral, or possibly under what we currently receive.

We understand that the school donations and activity contributions are often a big ask for many parents and caregivers in our community. As a result, the Board has decided to opt into the Scheme for 2020, meaning you will not be asked to pay the voluntary donation or the activity contribution next year.

As parents and caregivers, you will be saving up to \$200 per child next year, and so we would urge you to strongly support our school fundraising through the Friends of Sacred Heart (FOSH), and continue your valued support of our school community.

PTO

*Education within the Catholic faith*

We will use the 2020 school year as a trial for the new scheme. If the *Donations Scheme* puts too much pressure on the school's finances, or we risk being unable to fund many of the activities provided for our children, we will need to reconsider whether we stay in the scheme for the following school year in 2021.

Please note the *Donations Scheme* does not affect the Attendance Dues which are compulsory for all students attending a Catholic School in New Zealand. These fees are invoiced separately through the Archdiocese every year.

You can find more information about the *Donations Scheme* here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/publications/budget-2019/government-introduces-donations-scheme-for-decile-1-7-schools/>

If you have any questions for the Board about its decision, please direct them to Janet Whalen at [admin@sacredheartpetone.school.nz](mailto:admin@sacredheartpetone.school.nz) by Friday 22 November. Janet will forward all questions to the Board to be considered at our next meeting on 27 November.

Sincerely

Helen Kneebone  
Board Chair  
Sacred Heart Petone Board of Trustees