

Tuition Policy

PCS Statement of Purpose

We want to seize the opportunity to lay the foundations of purposeful growth to receive more students who want to experience Christian education. We desire this to be done in an environment filled with invested families and passionate staff who proactively seek the next level of learning and care for our children. (On Mission/Together/For Learning – PCS Strategic Plan 2023-2027).

PCS Mission Statement

To educate the whole child in a Bible-based environment developing students who exhibit Christ-like attributes, ownership, mastery, innovation and future-ready skills.

PCS Vision Statement

To be a unified, Christ-centered learning community dedicated to “educating the whole child” to his or her full potential – an approach that goes beyond academic achievement to embrace the whole development of each student.

Preamble

This policy applies to the establishment and collection of tuition fees charged to the parents and/or guardians (the “Parents”) of the students enrolled at **Pickering Christian School** (the “School”).

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the ongoing viability of the School through the collection of its main source of revenue, tuition fees; and while doing so, to ensure that each parent is treated in a fair and consistent manner.

Policy

It is the responsibility of the Parents who have enrolled their child(ren) at the School to fulfill their commitment to make the required tuition payments. The completed and signed *Tuition Direction Agreement*, as submitted on initial enrolment, and each subsequent year of enrolment, to the School by the Parents, solidifies this commitment.

Tuition shall be paid at the rate set by the School. This rate is set in conjunction with the approval of the annual budget at a business meeting with the School’s Board of Directors.

Tuition Support is available to those families who have children attending the School. Applications for support are opened at the beginning of the calendar year, for the upcoming school year. (ie. – Applications due by March 2026, for support requests for the 2026/27 school year.) Please see the Tuition Support Policy and Tuition Support Guidance documents for more details.

Tuition payments ensure the ongoing financial stability of the School. As such, tuition payment arrangements are required to complete enrolment and prior to



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admission as outlined in below. The School reserves the right to assign spaces only to children whose parents have complied with set deadlines and procedures.

Tuition Arrears

Tuition arrears negatively impact the financial stability of the School. When Parents do not adhere to this Tuition Policy and fail to meet their tuition obligations, it places an increased strain on the School's ability to meet its operating expenses.

- (a) The School recognizes the need for Christian compassion in the matter of Parents experiencing financial hardship and difficulty in meeting their tuition payment obligations. As such, the School will exercise flexibility in the event of unusual circumstances affecting individual families, as outlined in the *Tuition Support Policy*.
- (b) At the same time, to enable the School to continue to meet its ongoing operating commitments, it is essential that a family experiencing difficulty meeting its financial obligations communicate to the Principal or Finance Director in an expedient manner so that a solution that considers the needs of the student(s), the family and the School can be fairly and adequately considered.
- (c) All families experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to contact the Principal or Finance Director.
- (d) The tuition arrears process seeks to balance the needs of the students involved and their families with the ongoing commitment of the School to its full community of students and parents.

Procedures

September Enrolment/Re-enrolment

In order to secure enrolment of their child(ren) in an upcoming school year, Parents must:

- (a) Make a non-refundable deposit (the "Registration or Recommitment Fee") upon registration or re-registration to ensure their child(ren)'s enrolment in the upcoming school year.

The Registration or Recommitment Fee will not be refunded even if the child(ren) is/are subsequently not enrolled for the upcoming school year. This payment is required to allow for adequate planning for the next school season; the forfeited deposit payment recognizes the additional financial burden placed on other families and the additional administrative work required.
- (b) Complete and return the *Tuition Direction Agreement* prior to **May 1st** (for returning students) or upon completion of the *Student Enrolment Agreement* (for new students) to secure a spot for their child(ren) for the upcoming school year. This deadline is required to ensure that classroom spaces are reserved for the children enrolled.

Tuition payments may be made by pre-authorized payments or post-dated cheques, as indicated on the *Tuition Direction Agreement*. Requests for any

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changes to the *Tuition Direction Agreement* must be submitted to the Finance Director for approval.

Parents who do not submit their Deposit Payment and *Tuition Direction Agreement* by the required deadlines above will be given an initial reminder by the Finance Director. However, if these forms are not received by the deadline, the Parents will be informed that they have not yet secured places for their children and that their spot may be assigned to a new enrolling student if a wait list situation occurs.

The Finance Director must receive the required documents in order for the child(ren) to attend class. If these completed documents are not received prior to the first day of school, the child(ren) may not be assigned to a class and may not be considered to be enrolled in the School.

All outstanding tuition payments from prior years must be fully paid to secure enrolment for the child(ren) for the upcoming school year. An exception may be made if satisfactory payment arrangements have been made for the outstanding balance.

Late Admission or Early Withdrawal

For students enrolled for part of the school year (whether through early withdrawal or late admission), tuition is owed for each month attended. Part-year tuition is calculated on a pro-rated basis over the school year (September to June), with each month being equal to one-tenth of the full-year annual tuition cost. Attendance of any partial month constitutes a full month. Registration fees, membership fees, and student activity fees are non-refundable and will not be pro-rated.

If a registered student withdraws any time after the first day of school, the Parents must 30 days written notice (letter or email) to the principal. Any tuition amounts owing or refundable will be calculated based on the date of withdrawal.

In the case of overpayment and/or prepaid tuition for which a charitable donation receipt has been issued, reimbursement of the tuition fees paid is not possible. If a charitable donation receipt has not been issued, then the overpayment of tuition may be refunded, in accordance with this Policy.

It is the responsibility of the principal to notify the Finance Director of changed family status and to ensure that post-dated cheques and/or a reimbursement cheque are returned to the family.

Returned (NSF) Payments

In the event that the School receives notification of a tuition payment being returned because of insufficient funds, the Finance Director will notify the Parents that a cheque/pre-authorized payment has been returned and ask for a replacement to be sent to the School within one week of notification. If the Finance Director is not able to make contact with the Parents in a timely manner and/or the Parents indicate they will not be able to send a replacement cheque within one week, then the process for tuition arrears (below) should be followed.

Any NSF fees charged by the Parents' financial institution are the responsibility of the Parents.

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Tuition Arrears

When circumstances change so that honouring their tuition commitments is difficult, the Parents must contact the Principal or Finance Director in writing or in person immediately.

The Parents are strongly urged to request financial assistance, which may be granted if funds are available. See the *Tuition Support Policy* or contact the Finance Director for further information.

If the Parents choose not to request financial assistance or if it is either unavailable or insufficient for their situation, then the Parents and the Finance Director should create an alternate plan for the payment of the tuition fees. For such situations, periodic statements of account will be sent to the Parents for ease of tracking payments received and outstanding amounts owing.

If the Parents are unable or unwilling to meet their tuition obligations as outlined in the *Tuition Direction Agreement* and are unable or unwilling to work with the Finance Director as outlined above, then the Principal will contact the Parents to arrange a meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to create an alternate payment plan and to work with the Parents to resolve the tuition arrears.

If the Principal is unable to arrange a meeting with the Parents, or if any payment arrears matter is not resolved within 14 days of their meeting, then a letter tracked by courier will be sent outlining the Parents' tuition obligation and the possibility that they will be required to seek alternative education for their child(ren). The Principal will report this situation at the next Board of Directors meeting.

If the payment arrears matter has not been resolved by undertaking these steps, the Principal will report to the Board that the Parents are unwilling or unable to resolve the situation to their satisfaction. The Principal will then send a letter tracked by courier with notification to the Parents that their child(ren) must be withdrawn from the school within ten (10) days.

Even after the Parents have withdrawn their child(ren) from the school, payment arrears still represent a broken commitment and outstanding debt. The Board may choose to pursue other formal means of collecting payment.