

Faith CSDE

Vanuatu Schoolies Trip 2027

Payment and Refund Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the payment schedule, financial commitment, and refund conditions for students participating in the Vanuatu Schoolies Mission Trip (December 2027). It is designed to ensure fairness to all families and to protect the financial viability of the trip.

2. Total Cost and Payment Options

The approximate cost of the trip is \$1,500 - \$1,700 pp. This may be reduced slightly, depending on the number of students attending.

Families may either:

- Pay the total cost in full at any time, or
- Pay via the scheduled instalment plan outlined below.

Important: Participation in an instalment plan does not reduce a family's financial commitment. Acceptance of a place on the trip constitutes commitment to the full cost of the trip, regardless of withdrawal, subject to the refund conditions outlined in this policy.

3. Instalment Schedule (2027)

Date	Payment	Amount
At Registration	Initial Deposit	\$400
Friday 19 March	2nd Payment	\$300
Friday 14 May	3rd Payment	\$300
Friday 16 July	4th Payment	\$300
Friday 20 August	5th Payment	\$300 (whatever the balance may be)

4. Deposit and Confirmation of Participation

- The initial deposit of \$400 is non-refundable.
- Payment of the deposit confirms a student's place on the trip.
- At this point, the School will begin committing to bookings and associated costs on behalf of the group.

5. Financial Commitment and Withdrawal

Due to the group-based pricing of the trip, the withdrawal of a student may increase costs for all remaining participants.

If a student withdraws:

- The deposit is non-refundable.
- Families are responsible for all unrecoverable costs incurred by the School at the time of withdrawal. Depending on timing, this may constitute a substantial portion or the full cost of the trip.
- Unrecoverable costs may include airline bookings, accommodation and transport.

Airline Credits: Where a student withdraws after flights have been booked, the travel agent may be able to apply the value of the cancelled flight as a credit toward future travel, subject to the airline's ticketing conditions. Where such a credit is issued, it will be passed on to the family, less any applicable transfer or reissue fees. The school cannot guarantee the availability or value of any airline credit, as this is determined solely by the airline and booking conditions at the time.

6. Key Financial Commitment Milestones

Once significant bookings, including flights and accommodation have been confirmed and paid for, unrecoverable costs will typically constitute a substantial portion or the full cost of the trip.

Families will be notified prior to any major financial commitment being made on behalf of the group.

7. Instalment Default

Failure to maintain instalment payments:

- Does not cancel financial obligation.
- Does not release the student from the trip agreement.

The School reserves the right to recover outstanding amounts where costs have been incurred.

8. Replacement Student Provision

If a withdrawing student is replaced by another participant, the School may provide a partial refund, less:

- Any unrecoverable costs
- Administration/transfer fees

Replacement is subject to availability and timing (e.g., airline name changes, booking cut-offs).

9. Travel Insurance

Families are strongly encouraged to purchase travel insurance at the time of paying the deposit. Insurance should cover trip cancellation, medical issues, and unexpected withdrawal. The school is not responsible for losses that may otherwise be covered by insurance.

10. Exceptional Circumstances

The School understands that unforeseen circumstances can arise. Requests for refunds due to exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness or family hardship) may be considered at the discretion of the School. Any refund will be limited to recoverable costs only.

11. Agreement

By paying the initial deposit, families acknowledge and agree to:

- The full financial commitment outlined in this policy
- The non-refundable nature of the deposit
- Liability for unrecoverable costs in the event of withdrawal