

# **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC POLICY**



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## **RATIONALE**

*Park Lake State School believes that educating the whole child will enhance the quality of education within the school. Provision of a balanced curriculum through an instrumental music program will develop in students' awareness of and sensitivity to, the importance of music in our everyday lives.*

This short clip highlights the current research supporting this rationale –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng>

## **WHAT IS MUSIC?**

### **Music is Science**

It is exact and specific; it demands exact acoustics. The music notation is a chart, a graph, which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume, changes, melody, and harmony all at once with the most exact control of time.

### **Music is Mathematics**

It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time and fractions that must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

### **Music is a Foreign Language**

Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French. Musical notation is certainly not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas.

### **Music is History**

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation.

### **Music is Physical Education**

Music requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles. These respond instantly to the sounds the ears hear and the mind interprets.

### **Music is all of these things, but most of all, Music is Art**

It allows a human being to take all of these elements to create pieces of works as well as use them to express emotions.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN QUEENSLAND**

The musical education of children in Queensland state schools is to be guided by a belief in the following principles:

1. The right of each individual to develop his/her music potential.
2. To develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of music.
3. To develop a further knowledge of music and develop an appreciation of the discipline in performance required.
4. The use of camps and workshops to further develop the above.
5. To use music to develop the individual - socially, emotionally and physically.

Lessons	Ensembles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 30 minute lesson per week in groups of 4-8 children</li> <li>• Lessons are free of charge</li> <li>• Attendance at all lessons is compulsory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On gaining an appropriate standard, students will be required to join an ensemble.</li> <li>• It is a condition of membership that all students learning an instrument must be part of and attend ensemble rehearsals (eg Concert Band or String Orchestra)</li> <li>• Ensemble rehearsals may be before school, during lunchtime or after school. <u>Attendance is compulsory.</u></li> </ul>

## **SELECTION AND ALLOCATION PROCESS FOR IM**

All children in Years 2 and 3 are tested by the classroom Music Teacher in Term 4 for possible inclusion in the School Instrumental Program for the following year. Brass, Percussion and Woodwind commences in Year 4, whilst String tuition begins in Year 3.

### **Student Selection**

The IM program is intended to cater for high performing music students and functions as an ensemble-based extension program. The selection process uses the following information to help us determine which students will be offered a place in our IM program. This is an on-balance collaboration judgement made by the school teaching staff. As this is an extension program the students will be ranked accordingly to the following information:

- Timbre Test (Goodwin)
- Class marks for effort and achievement
- Checklist from class teacher including academic ability, co-operation, reliability, ability to work independently and family support
- Assessment of suitability by IM teachers

### **Instruments on Offer (Orchestral only)**

Band	Strings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flute</li> <li>• Clarinet</li> <li>• Bass Clarinet</li> <li>• Alto Saxophone</li> <li>• Tenor Saxophone</li> <li>• French Horn</li> <li>• Trumpet</li> <li>• Trombone</li> <li>• Baritone Horn</li> <li>• Bass Guitar</li> <li>• Percussion/ Drums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violin</li> <li>• Viola</li> <li>• Cello</li> <li>• Double Bass</li> </ul>

Children will be included if they have their own instrument and pass a practical test given by the instrumental teacher. School instruments can be hired out subject to availability. It is required that at the end of the first 12 months parents purchase an instrument for their child thus freeing the school ones for re-allocation to beginners the following year. Cellos and Double Basses may be hired for up to three years. Tenor saxophones and trombones may be hired for longer than one year with the IM Teacher's approval. It is a well known fact that children who have their own instrument are more likely to commit themselves to the program for a long period of time.

It is suggested that before parents choose an instrument to buy, they speak to the IM Teacher for recommendation on what type of instrument their child is suited to and what size is required. Children are ultimately responsible for the instrument they are using.

## **COMMITMENT**

**All students must commit to the program for the full year.** Exclusion from the program will only be allowed after one year of tuition has been completed. This will only occur after negotiation between student, parents, teacher and principal. Please be aware that tuition is free of charge and your child is enrolled with one term's probation. Then, if satisfactory, for the rest of the time that your child attends this school he/she is a member of the Instrumental Music Program.

### **Parental Commitment:**

- Show an interest in the music study of your child
- Encourage and assist the student to be punctual for lessons, rehearsals and concerts
- Find a quiet place for your child to practise without interruption
- Arrange a regular time to practise
- Help your child with practice as much as possible, instructions in book and homework pad
- Provide a safe place to keep the instrument
- Keep the instrument in good repair with strings and reeds
- Purchase method book and accessories as required by the IM teacher
- Keep in regular communication with the IM teacher. Feel free to attend a lesson from time to time so you have a better understanding of what is expected from your child

### **Student Commitment:**

- Practise at least 5 times each week – minimum 20 minutes – if students fail to practise for a period of 4 or more weeks their enrolment will be cancelled
- Become a member of the School Concert Band or String Ensemble or other groups designated by the music teacher
- Take part, as required, in ALL excursions, concerts and camp activities
- Be prepared for lessons, rehearsals and other classes regularly as required

### **Attendance:**

- Students must attend all lessons, rehearsals and especially performances
- Punctuality is vital and all lateness will be noted
- If students miss 4 consecutive lessons with no reason, their enrolment will be cancelled

## **PERFORMANCE POLICY**

To ensure the fine reputation and quality of performance of each ensemble, only those musicians who have conducted themselves appropriately during rehearsals and who are of a suitable performance standard will be invited to perform.

During school and public performances every student must act as an ambassador of the school. At all times the student will behave in a responsible and dignified manner and follow instructions. Every student is required to assist with equipment and the technical arrangements of a concert.

## **PERFORMANCE UNIFORM**

Full school uniform with black dress shoes and white socks (which is provided by parents). Black sandshoes with white or coloured trimmings are NOT acceptable.

***Please Note:*** Incorrect uniform worn at a concert will result in your child being excluded from the band/orchestra for that particular performance.

## **COMPETITION POLICY**

- Music competitions are the optimum performance opportunities for school music ensembles because of various factors, which include performance venue, warm-up procedures, and the focus being on the music (unlike other performance opportunities such as parades, community gatherings and variety concerts).
- Adjudication is a by-product of competition - it is necessary but may not always be a positive experience for all participants (players, directors and members of the audience). The adjudicator's decision is dependent on the adjudicator's likes, dislikes and perceptions.
- Prizes and trophies are bonuses after much hard work. However, hard work still has happened, regardless of whether there is a trophy to show for it.
- Competition + Motivation = Work = Optimum Result, which is the enjoyment of performing music as well as possible.
- Participation and enjoyment are the most important aspects of being involved with competitions.

Ultimately, it is the IM Teacher's decision as to whether the ensemble(s) participate in a competition. Factors include, date, travel requirements, cost, venue, student availability, work ethic of the group and its current standard.

## **STUDENT PROGRESS ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

1. All IM Teachers maintain a regular assessment record of each student's progress.
2. Written reports are sent home at the end of second and fourth term.
3. Administration and Music Staff hold an annual review of policy guidelines and implementation.
4. The child's enjoyment and involvement of their instrumental music studies is re-evaluated regularly to ensure that the student's maximum potential is reached.

## **COSTS**

### **Levy**

All students involved in the Instrumental program are required to pay a yearly levy of \$60. This money will meet travel expenses to concerts or performances outside of the school and provide resources (including orchestra/band scores) for the IM Program. **This levy must be paid before students can attend lessons.**

### **Hire Fee**

Children using school instruments will be charged a hire fee of \$100 for the year of use. Flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, violins and violas are short-term hire instruments. Students learning these instruments should have their own instruments within 12 months. Bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, trombone, euphonium, baritone, cello and double bass are long-term hire instruments and may be hired for more than one year. **This fee must be paid in full before instruments are allowed home.**

# **INSTRUMENT NEEDS AND ACCESSORIES**

## **STRING PROGRAM**

<b>All String Players</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Essential Elements</i> - Book 1 (for the specific instrument)</li><li>• Rosin</li><li>• Collapsible music stand</li><li>• Soft cloth to dust instrument (never use chemicals)</li><li>• A4 black display folder</li><li>• Pencil and eraser</li></ul>
<b>Violin and Viola Students Only</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A height adjustable shoulder rest. School instruments come with a shoulder rest but students who purchase their own instrument must also provide a shoulder rest.</li></ul>

It is a good idea to carry these items in a 'music bag' (like a library bag) and to make sure everything is clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

**Please note: All string students will need to trim their left hand finger nails regularly. The correct left hand position cannot be achieved with long fingernails.**

## **BAND PROGRAM**

<b>All band students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Sound Innovations</i> - Book 1 (for the specific instrument)</li><li>• Music stand</li><li>• A4 Display folder</li><li>• 2 Clothes pegs</li><li>• Pencil</li></ul>
<b>Clarinets and Saxophones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 Reeds - size 2 (Vandoren is the preferred brand)</li><li>• 1 pull through cleaning swab</li><li>• Cork grease</li></ul>
<b>Flutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cleaning cloth for inside the instrument (handkerchief is fine)</li><li>• Dry cleaning cloth to wipe the outside of the instrument</li></ul>
<b>Trumpets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Valve oil (Al Cass is the preferred brand)</li><li>• Tuning slide grease</li></ul>
<b>Trombones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trombone slide cream</li><li>• Tuning slide grease</li></ul>
<b>Percussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drum sticks and practising pad</li></ul>

If you are searching for an instrument to purchase, we can recommend the following quality brands of instruments in order of preference. There are many cheaper instruments on the market, which should be avoided due to poor quality. If in doubt any of the music teachers would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

## Recommended Brands

<b>Flutes:</b>	Yamaha, Jupiter, Armstrong, Artley, Blessing
<b>Clarinets:</b>	Yamaha, Armstrong, Artley
<b>Saxophones:</b>	Yamaha, Selmer, Julius Keilworth, Yanagazawa
<b>Brass:</b>	Yamaha, Boosey and Hawkes, Besson, Bach, B+S, Conn, King
<b>Violins/Violas:</b>	Arco, Enrico, St. Antonio, Raggetti, Amore, Gliga, Hidersine

## Recommended Music Shops

Here are some music shops which you can hire or buy an instrument from, most have payment plans.

**Ozwinds - Southport** (Band only)  
2/25 Alicia St, Southport

Tel: 5561 1773  
<https://www.ozwinds.com.au/>

**Guitar World**  
New St, Nerang

Tel: 55962588  
<https://www.guitarworld.com/>

**Gold Coast Music**  
53A Nerang St, Southport

Tel: 5532 7174  
<https://www.gcmusic.com.au/>

**Delseno String Studio**  
10/46-50 Spencer Rd, Nerang

Tel: 55964168  
<http://www.dalsenostudio.com>

**Simply for Strings** (Strings Only)  
78 Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill

Tel: 1300 739 293  
<https://www.simplyforstrings.com.au>

**Animato** (Strings Only)  
789 Kingsford Smith Drive, Eagle Farm

Tel: 3876 3877  
<https://animato.com.au>

**Music Express**  
2048 Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt

Tel: 3849 7088  
<https://musicexpress.com.au/our-stores/>