

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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What are the benefits of being a part of the Instrumental Music Program?

- Foster a sense of belonging
- Improve memory skills
- Improve hand eye coordination & fine motor skills
- Improve listening skills
- Cognitive development that can transfer to other subjects
- Develop auditory skills
- Encourage responsibility, perseverance and discipline
- Encourage self-expression
- Build self confidence
- Build physical strength and improve stamina
- Provide a constructive outlet for stress

What instruments do we offer?

Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, French horn, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba (Bass Guitar)

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Percussion: Tuned and auxillary

Woodwind: Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Flute, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone

How are students selected ?

The following information is used to help us determine which students will be offered a place in our Instrumental Music Program. This is an on-balance collaborative judgement made by the school teaching staff. All offers are approved by the Principal.

Unfortunately we are always oversubscribed and are unable to accept all who apply.

Students will be ranked according to the following information:

- Selmer Aptitude Test
- Progress and enthusiasm in Rainbow Rockets (Year 3 students – Band only)
- Academic results, including Music, behaviour and effort achievement standards
- Assessment of suitability by Instrumental Music teachers

What does 'Ensemble Program' mean?

Your child **MUST** be part of an ensemble. You cannot choose to only have a lesson and not be part of the ensemble. This is mandated by Education Queensland.

We need to recruit for 'balanced ensembles'. That means a range of instruments to allow for the group experience to be successful.

What does the Department of Education Queensland provide?

Instrumental lessons are funded by The Department of Education Queensland (partially funded by The Gap State School). DoE funds Strings from Year 3 and Woodwind, Brass and Percussion from Year 4.

ALL Year 3 Students are learning a Woodwind Instrument (recorder) and Tuned Percussion (Glockenspiel and Xylophone). This new Initiative, Rainbow Rockets, will be used to inform the Instrumental music selection process for Band Students in 2023.

What is the **2023** intake?

String intake Year 3

Band intake Year 4

The Expression of Interest for **2022 Year 2 Students** will give you the option of Strings for 2023 or Band (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion) for 2024. If your child really wants a band instrument, please do not nominate for strings in Year 2.

The Expression of Interest for **2022 Year 3 Students** will only have the option of Band (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion) for 2023.

We will be taking a similar number of students as previous years, except over the two years.

How much will it cost?

Program	Description and Cost	
School instrument loan	Instrument Maintenance Contribution This applies if you are using a school-owned instrument	\$125
Instrumental	Music Program Contribution Applicable when a child is participating in the instrumental program alone – no choir (cost includes use of P&C-Owned music uniform trousers)	\$135
Choral (Junior & Senior Choirs)	Music Program Contribution Applicable when a child is participating in the choral program alone – not instrumental (cost includes use of P&C-Owned music uniform trousers)	\$165
Instrumental and Choral	Music Program Contribution Applicable when a child is participating in both the instrumental and choral programs (cost includes use of P&C-Owned music uniform trousers)	\$205
Girls' Choir	Music Program Contribution	\$45
Boys' Choir	Music Program Contribution	\$45
Sopraninos	Music Program Contribution	\$30

You will also have to purchase a music uniform (*music uniform trousers are hired as part of program cost*).

Tell me about buying an instrument.

Your child uses a school instrument for one year. After that year, you purchase your own instrument. This is a considerable financial commitment that we need you to consider before applying for the program. There are more affordable options like buying a good second-hand instrument, or hiring to buy. (approximate costs new: Violin – \$300 Trumpet – \$600 Trombone - \$1,000)
Double Bass and Euphonium are loaned for the duration of primary school. Cellos are a two year loan.

How is my contribution used?

- Ensemble Music (\$100 - \$200 each)
- Equipment (music stands, percussion gear, teacher resources...)
- Trouser hire
- Purchase of school instruments
- Maintenance and servicing of school instruments for hire and shared use e.g. percussion
- Competition entry fees
- Some bus journeys

When do the lessons occur?

Once a week, for half an hour, in a small group, in school time.

Ensembles rehearse before school once a week starting at 7.30 from their second year of learning.

Do we have to attend all the rehearsals and performances?



You sure do!

Performances are a vital part of our instrumental program, with learnings that go well beyond cognitive development.

Can my child try for a while to see if they like it?

In short – No.

We expect students to continue in the program unless mutually agreed that it is no longer in the best interests of the child to continue.

Can my child learn the instrument we already have at home?

That is possible, and considered, dependant on the information gathered in the selection process.
List that information on your application.
As far as possible, if your child is successful, we try to offer their first or second preference.

Will my child have a better chance of selection if they already learn another instrument?

Yes and No.

If your child has been learning an instrument for some time, and this has improved their general music knowledge, built practice habits, developed discipline...and this has all transferred to the classroom and has created better results on all those listed aspects we consider in the selection process, then no doubt it helps.

If you put your child in lessons on an instrument for a few months with the express purpose of increasing their chances of selection, then that will NOT help.

If my child enters the Instrumental Program, should they stay in the choir?

Please – YES!

The work in the choral program supports and enhances the music knowledge needed for instrumental work. It creates a better understanding of music and score reading, sensitivity to working within an ensemble, as well as the music literacy components encountered.

What is my commitment if my child enters the program?

- Provide your child with a suitable instrument after 12 months tuition. (Except for large instruments)
- Maintain an interest in your child's music study, including practice and attendance at lessons and rehearsals.
- Provide a safe place in which to store the instrument, keeping it clean and in working order.

To what does my child commit if they enter the program?

- Attend all lessons and rehearsals as required.
- Practice regularly at home for at least 4 times per week.
- Participate in all concerts, workshops and camps.



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