

Beginners Instrumental Music Information Evening

STUDENTS COMMENCING 2025



**Assisting parents to make
an informed decision.**

**Is instrumental music at
school the program for
your child and family?**

Instrument Families



Instrument Families

The Brass Family



Instrument Families

PERCUSSION FAMILY



Instrument Families

String Family

Violin



Viola



Guitar



Cello



Double Bass



Harp



How the program works:

- ▶ High standards are expected and participation is by invitation only.
- ▶ ½ hour **group** lesson with Instrumental teacher per week. The lesson will always be held on the same day each week.
- ▶ **Year 3 students will not be part of an ensemble until year 4**, though they will form groups for some performances.
- ▶ Ensembles are before school 7.30 – 8.30am.
- ▶ **In Year 4, all students are expected to participate in an ensemble.** They are required to be on time, ready and rehearsed, again out of respect to other members of the ensemble. **Junior Band – Year 4** brass, woodwind and percussion students will form in term 2.
- ▶ **A roll** is kept for all lessons and ensemble practices. Parents are asked to advise their child's instrumental music teacher via email if they are absent due to illness.

Student commitment:

- ▶ Practise for a minimum of 5 days per week, 15 - 20 mins.
- ▶ Make sure instrument is brought to school each day ensemble and lessons are on.
- ▶ If you forget your instrument, still come to rehearsals and lessons.
- ▶ Look after your instrument and clean it.
- ▶ Fill in the practice booklet
- ▶ Look after your band music and folder. All band music (once they join an ensemble) must be returned at the end of each school year, in good condition.
- ▶ Give your best effort.
- ▶ Talk to your teacher if you have any problems.
- ▶ Attend all performances.

Parent commitment:

- ▶ Give your child a comfortable place to practise, a flat chair and a music stand
- ▶ Don't laugh at your child making funny sounds
- ▶ Be supportive and encouraging to assist your child to meet their commitment
- ▶ Provide your child with the necessary equipment
- ▶ Don't use practice as a punishment
- ▶ Reward your child for good work
- ▶ Fill in and sign the practice booklet
- ▶ **Communicate** any problems/difficulties with the teacher
- ▶ Ensure you know the lesson day and send the child prepared
- ▶ Ensure your child is available to attend all performances
- ▶ Have your child play their instrument for family and friends
- ▶ Ensure your child has full correct music uniform for performances.
- ▶ Pay the instrumental music contribution on time.

The Music Supporters Group - MSG

- ▶ **Sign up for updates from this sub-committee of the P&C**

TGSS Music Supporters Group



MSG Contribution:

- ▶ Your contribution pays for:
 - ▶ Ensemble Music (\$100 - \$200 each)
 - ▶ Equipment (music stands (over \$100 for one stand), 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
- ▶ Performance opportunities are made possible by the support of the parents and the sub committee of the P&C, The Music Supporters Group (MSG). Parental involvement is welcome.

Instrumental Contribution:

Maintenance contribution for use of school instrument (SRS fee for school instrument hire)	\$125
MSG Contributions	
Contribution for all students in the instrumental program	\$115
Contribution for all students in Junior or Senior Choir	\$210
Or	
Contribution for students participating in both instrumental & choral programs	\$260
Additional Choirs	
Contribution for students in Sopranino Choir (Year 1 and 2)	\$40
Contribution for students in Girls' Choir (Year 4 – 6 max 30 students) Semester 1 only	\$55
Contribution for students in Boys' Choir (Year 3 – 6) Semester 2 only	\$55

The Music Uniform

- ▶ **Music Shirt** – purchased from the uniform shop
- ▶ **Black pants** – cost covered by the payment made by your family – available from the uniform shop.
 - ▶ When pants are outgrown, swap them at the uniform shop.
 - ▶ When pants are damaged, please return to the uniform shop for repair.
- ▶ **Black Shoes** – ALL black, lace up, leather look.
- ▶ **Black Socks** - this is important as white socks and other colours can show on stage.
- ▶ **Hair** - Hair tied back from the face with hair tie available from the uniform shop. No shiny clips or headbands please.
- ▶ **Jewellery** – no watches, wrist bands or necklaces. Only plain stud or sleeper earrings to be worn.



Teacher commitment:

- ▶ To provide lessons and ensembles on a weekly basis however, cluster events and other performances will sometimes replace lesson time.
- ▶ To provide support and encouragement
- ▶ To help students sort out any difficulties in a positive way
- ▶ To communicate with the parent if there are any problems
- ▶ To arrange performance opportunities – assembly, competitions, music nights.

Communication:

- ▶ If it is a normal school day, lessons and band rehearsals will always go ahead – this includes the first and last week of each term.
- ▶ **If you don't hear otherwise – LESSONS AND ENSEMBLES ARE ON!**
- ▶ In the case of a rehearsal/lesson being cancelled, we will (where possible), verbally communicate this with students, advertise in the school newsletter and email parents.
- ▶ Please check school newsletter to keep up to date with any information or changes to the schedule.
- ▶ Group email lists will be created and used.
- ▶ Parents to email conductor and Mrs O'Shea doshe5@eq.edu.au if student is absent from a rehearsal.
- ▶ Music updates will be sent by Mrs Kathy Hiley when needed in the gazette or via email.
- ▶ All performances will be listed in the school web site calendar.

Progress Review (Term 1 and 4):

For students to remain program participants they will need to:

- ▶ regularly attend rehearsals (attendance records are kept)
- ▶ attend performances and competitions (attendance records are kept)
- ▶ show respect to conductors during rehearsals
- ▶ respect other performers
- ▶ practise regularly (as per practise sheet)
- ▶ demonstrate expected achievement standards
- ▶ care for musical instruments
- ▶ wear correct uniform to performances

Some Important Messages

- ▶ Instrumental Teachers work across a number of schools and have commitments to those programs. This, along with cluster events, camps and performances means that we sometimes miss out on our lessons or ensemble rehearsal.
- ▶ Missed lessons will not be made up
- ▶ ***“Have a little play, every single day.”*** Mrs O’Shea
- ▶ JUNIOR CHOIR
 - ▶ If your child is starting in the Instrumental Music program next year, it is even more important that they consider singing in the Junior Choir. 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.

Forms and Payment:

Forms to accept your child's place in the program are to be completed and returned to the school office **by no later than Friday, 22 November 2024.**

To be RETURNED Friday, 22 November to the Office. A copy has already been sent home. There are some spares if you need them.

- ▶ Parent/Caregiver Consent/Payment Form
- ▶ Commitment Contract
- ▶ External Request for Equipment EQ11 (Loan agreement form)

To KEEP

- ▶ Information Book (Download from the school web site <https://thegapss.eq.edu.au/curriculum/music>)
- ▶ List of requirements – This is to be provided by EVERY student, hiring an instrument or using your own.
- ▶ A guide to buying an instrument note is available if you are interested.

PAYMENT

- ▶ An invoice for the cost of participation in the 2025 program will be emailed during this school term with a 14-day payment term (full payment or a deposit of one third is required) for acceptance of your child's place in the 2025 Instrumental Music Program. Choir invoices will be generated at the start of the new school year, with a 14-day payment term.

Loan agreement form:

- ▶ Any damages to be paid for by the family
- ▶ School covers general maintenance from normal use
- ▶ Instrument must be returned in good condition
- ▶ Any problems, please bring to the instrumental teacher straight away. Often easily fixed. Do not attempt to repair yourself, and do not take to a repairer.
- ▶ Children need to be responsible with instruments. Do not let others play.
- ▶ One year loan on most instruments. Large instruments are 4 year loan – Double Bass, baritone/euphonium, tuba and French horn. Cellos are 2 year loans.
- ▶ **It is a condition of accepting the offer that you purchase your own instrument after one year for your child to continue** (with the exception of 4 and 2 year loans)
- ▶ Instruments on loan for 4 years will only continue to be loaned out according to effort and progress.
- ▶ *Please have the instrument covered under your household insurance policy.*

Purchase of 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.

Double bass, baritone, euphonium and French horn are loaned for the duration of primary school. Cellos are a two year loan.

Keys to Success:

Engage

Support

Communicate