



Instrumental Music Program

An Important Guide for Both Parents and Students

Welcome

Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program. We hope that your involvement in the St Benedict's Instrumental Music Program will be fulfilling and enjoyable. The Instrumental Music Program offers a unique and exciting music experience. We look forward to your active participation in the many musical activities that will take place during this coming year.



This information sheet was produced to assist parents and instrumental music students to understand the basic functions and policies of the program. If you seek answers that are not on this information sheet, please contact the Band Program Director.

Donald Smith
Band Program Director
dandfsmith@bigpond.com

Aims

The aim of the instrumental music program is to develop the students' musical, social and personal awareness through participation in instrumental music instruction, ensembles, rehearsals and performances.

Band Instruments Taught: Year 3*- 6

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto/Tenor Saxophone
- Bass Clarinet
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium/Baby Tuba
- Percussion (drums, glockenspiel, auxiliary percussion)
- Keyboard only if being taught privately

**Year 3 and physically smaller students may only be suitable for one of the following instruments which are available in modified models: Flute -curved head-joint; Trumpet; Cornet; Trombone (ergonomic model) or Percussion.*

Ensembles

The Instrumental Program is Ensemble based. All Students in the instrumental music program participate in an ensemble. Each Ensemble is like a sporting team with a variety of positions all of which must be filled for the team/ensemble to function.

Communication

All notice of performances and special events will be published in the School Newsletter.

Enrolments, Fees & Lessons

Your child's enrolment in the Instrumental Music Program will continue from year to year whilst your child is in attendance at St Benedict's Primary School. **It will not be necessary to re-enrol at the start of each year**, however, if you wish your child to discontinue with the Program, a formal note of withdrawal will be required from you (parent/guardian) to Mr Smith/Admin prior to the end of semester to ensure further billing does not occur in the following semester.

Participation in the program is charged at a non-refundable flat rate of **\$270.00** for each semester, (invoiced per semester) for **Senior and Junior Bands**.

This single fee contributes towards group lessons, ensembles, competitions and associated resources. Consequently, lessons are not charged individually.

Once your child has started lessons you are financially committed to the instrumental music program for that whole semester (two terms).

During a term, lessons may be missed due to student or staff illness, other school activities etc. Such occurrences are to be expected and fees will not be adjusted for these reasons. In the event of long periods of absenteeism by staff or students, adjustment may be made at the discretion of the Principal.

Students joining the program will receive a 30-minute lesson on their chosen instrument, and one ensemble rehearsal each week.

Lessons take place in school time on a rotating timetable given out at the beginning of each term. Ensemble (band practice) rehearsals take place before school (7:30-8:30am) for **Senior Band** and at 2nd break (1-1:30pm) during school for **Junior Band** (new students).

A successful program can only be maintained with the commitment of the staff and students. Continued absence from lessons, band and performances can cause problems within the lesson group or ensemble. A letter to explain absences would be appreciated.

Student Requirements

Instrument

You may purchase a new or pre-used instrument. Many retailers offer rental/purchase plans.

An instrument of good quality is vital to the success of the beginner student. For this reason, it is suggested that all second hand purchases be checked prior to purchase by the teacher or a reputable retailer.

It is strongly advised that all purchases (new and used) from EBay or the internet be avoided as some of these instruments are unplayable and the customer has no recourse. Repairers refuse to work on these instruments as they cannot guarantee the repairs.

A reputable retailer will offer you sound advice and backup service. Some retailers have been listed at the back of the booklet for your convenience.

Instrument Hire

In general, instruments are not provided by the school. All families will be responsible for the purchase, or hire, of their child's instrument, tutor book and accessories.

The School has purchased a few of the larger and more expensive instruments that are vital to the balance and success of the Ensembles. Children will be selected for these instruments in relation to criteria such as - suitability for playing the instrument, interest and commitment (dedication to practice), intention to remain in the program and at St Benedict's until year 6.

School instruments will be hired to students at a cost of **\$70 per term** and include instruments such as Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone Euphonium and Ergonomic Trombone. *On completion of the Instrument Hire Agreement, and prior to the instrument being returned to the School, the Hirer will be responsible to organise and pay for an instrument service by a reputable music retailer. A copy of the Service Receipt must also be returned to the School to verify that the instrument is in peak condition ready for the next Hirer.*

Commitment

Learning a musical instrument can be a rewarding experience and is enhanced by being part of an ensemble. It is one of the joys of the human experience. However, like learning any new skill, it requires dedication and persistence to excel.

Performances

Students are required to play at performances in and out of the school throughout the year. Your attendance is important. A letter to explain absence from a performance must be given in advance.

Practice

Regular practice is important. Beginning students should start with about 15 minutes a day. One long practice session on the day of a lesson is virtually useless. Parents should ensure a set routine of practice is established at the beginning of the year.

Expectations of Students

1. Attend all lessons, band rehearsals and performances on time.
2. Practice regularly.
3. Care and maintain instrument and replace accessories as needed.
4. Bring instrument, band folder, books, pencil and other accessories for instrument to all lessons, band rehearsals and performances.
5. Assist with the setting up and packing up of band rehearsal and personal equipment.
6. Take home to parents all school and special music newsletters.
7. Attend all performances inside and outside school time.

Expectations of Parents

1. Advise the music teacher of child absence prior to lessons, rehearsals and performances.
2. Encourage child in his/her home practice.
3. Encourage child by attending performances in and out of school hours.
4. Support child in honoring the expectations above.
5. Ensure child has the necessary accessories to maintain and keep their instrument in good working order.
6. Read and take note of all school and special music newsletters that are sent home.

Music Retailers

The following are recommended music retailers:

Ellaways Kedron

337 Gympie Rd
Kedron 4031

Phone: 3359 8266

kedron@ellaways.com.au

www.ellaways.com.au

Ellaways North Lakes

Shop 5B 4-6 Burke Crescent
North Lakes 4509

Phone: 3359 8226

Woodswind and Brass

10 George St
Deception Bay 4508

Phone: 1300 378 452

www.woodswindandbrass.com.au

Brenda@woodswindandbrass.com.au

Warning

Instruments purchased over the internet/EBay are usually poor quality despite the claims of the seller. Many repairers will not work on these instruments as they cannot guarantee the repair.

Also we have found that claims of guarantees that instruments can be returned if not satisfied, have not been honoured as the sellers claim that the purchaser is not a professional and is not in a position to prove that the instrument has a problem.

Please do not purchase second hand instruments without having them inspected by the Instrumental teacher or a reputable retailer.



Instrumental Music Program

Parent Consent Form

Student name: Current class:

Today your child participated in the instrumental music testing activities at St. Benedict's. I have found that the would be a suitable instrument for them to begin their studies and for the balance of the band. Should you wish to contact me to discuss this further please drop me an email at dandfsmith@bigpond.com

Tick one box:

- I wish my child to be enrolled in the St Benedict's Instrumental programme.
- I do not wish my child to be enrolled in the Instrument Programme.

I understand the programme fees entitle my child to a 30 minute group lesson and band rehearsal each Wednesday school day, and participation in competitions, performances etc. I also understand that because my child will take some time to gain initial competency, band rehearsals may not be held in the first term of Junior Band.

I understand that lessons will be held each Wednesday during school hours and that band practice will take place after school between 2.45pm and 3.30pm.

I understand that students will need some time after practice to pack instruments and put chairs and music stands away. I understand that fees are paid in advance per term and my child cannot withdraw mid-term. I understand that should my child be offered one of the school's special rental instruments, any associated fees are paid per term and in advance.

I understand that except where school special instruments are involved, I will need to purchase or hire/lease a suitable instrument for my child in time for the commencement of the program. (Please be aware that some of the cheap and/or unbranded internet instrument offerings will be inadequate for the level of expertise your child will attain.)

I understand that I will need to purchase the required music tutor book: "Standard of Excellence Book 1" prior to commencement. I understand that the purchase of a small collapsible music stand is desirable.

Parent Name: Signed: Date:

Address:

Email: Phone:

This form must be returned by Monday 21st November, 2016.