



# **Instrumental Music Program**

## **Parent Information booklet**



## *Instrumental Music Program*

The aim of the program is to provide a high quality instrumental music education to students from Years 3-6. As part of the development of student's musical abilities, we provide them with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and enjoyment of music.

All students will be encouraged to participate in an ensemble to establish and enhance their performance ability and their love of music.

The instrumental music program is supported by the weekly classroom music lessons taught to each class. In classroom music lessons, musical notation and music appreciation is taught along with other content related to the The Arts – Music strand in the Australian Curriculum.

Learning to play an instrument is a lifelong endeavour and one that continues to give back throughout a child's life. We are proud to offer your child this opportunity.

Sharon Jones  
Principal

## Our Teachers

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**Mr Tim Jackson**  
**Strings Instrumental Music Teacher**

**tjack170@eq.edu.au**



Tim studied the Suzuki method of violin. He completed a Graduate Diploma of Education in 2009 and was the classroom music teacher at Isabella State School for 8 years. After taking three years to teach English as a Second Language at Trinity Bay High School, he was excited to return to music and working with ensembles in 2021. Tim's fascination with music has earned him some excellent music tech skills and he continues to enjoy music in his spare time in his home studio. Tim will be continuing to teach the strings instrumental music program in 2022 at Freshwater, Redlynch and White Rock State Schools.

**Ms Jen Fengler**  
**Brass/Woodwind/Percussion Instrumental Music Teacher**

**jxfen1@eq.edu.au**



Jen studied classical music at the Conservatorium of Newcastle and Contemporary Music at Southern Cross University. She has been the instrumental music teacher at Woree State Primary and High Schools for the past 7 years. Before that, she worked for Catholic Education for 5 years at schools including Good Council College, Holy Cross, St Rita's and St Andrews. Aside from teaching, Jen plays drums and bass guitar in several bands in Cairns including Raconteurs and Secret Tuesdays. Jen will be joining the Freshwater State School Music Team in 2022.

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## School Instruments

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Education Queensland policy requires all students to purchase their own instrument after borrowing a school instrument for the maximum term of **one school year**. These instruments are required for students new to the program.

**Quality instruments will provide students with a great sound and be less likely to require repair.**

Larger instruments such as cello can be hired for a **two-year period**.

**Percussionists do not need to purchase their own instruments**, however they are required to own a set of drumsticks and a **practice pad**.

Clarinets, saxophones and flutes **must be cleaned** after every practice session for hygiene and maintenance reasons.

If you have any questions regarding instruments, please contact your child's teacher.

## Care and Maintenance of School Instruments

Our P&C has generously purchased new instruments for our brass and woodwind program in 2018 with the school purchasing new string instruments and music for the strings program. This means our students and our teachers will have the very best instruments to play. We value the teaching of music and the teaching of an instrument. We are fortunate to have highly qualified and very experienced instrumental music teachers to deliver our music programs.

While school instruments are on loan to students, it is expected that students will undertake responsibility for the care and safety of the instrument. While the usual schedule of ongoing maintenance will be carried out by the school, any damage to the instrument which takes place during the course of the hire will be deemed the students responsibility, and as such the student's family will be responsible for the cost of repairs. The full conditions of the hire of school instruments are set out in the hire agreement form which is signed by parents at the commencement of the hire period.

Should any damage occur to the instrument or any maintenance be required, the student is expected to inform instrumental staff immediately so that appropriate action can be taken. In the case of damage occurring which is not deemed to be the result of normal wear and tear, instrumental staff will immediately contact the family of the student so that the situation can be discussed and mutual satisfactory action can be taken.

## Practice

An important part of developing the necessary skills to effectively play an instrument is dependent on regular home practice.

**Practice includes:**

**10-15mins practice x 5 days per week – practice time will increase as the student's technique develops**

For students to be motivated and successful, **parental support is highly recommended**.

## Assessment

All students participating in the Instrumental Music Program undergo formal assessment at the end of Semester One and the end of Semester Two. Assessments are compulsory for all instrumental students. The results of this assessment is communicated through the school report card at the end of each semester. The assessment process provides students with a goal to work towards and a sense of achievement when they accomplish milestones.

## Absences

All students participating in the Instrumental Music Program attend weekly lessons with their instrument and participate in the band, ensemble or orchestra. Students will be excused from attending lessons under the following circumstances:

Absence from school due to illness

Absence from school due to an excursion

Examinations in class

**Instrumental music teachers will email parents regarding student absence.**

Lesson timetables will be on display in the window of the music room, and a copy provided to each classroom teacher for display in all classrooms for the information of students and staff.

## Ensemble, Band and Orchestra

An integral part of all students receiving instrumental music lessons is to participate in an ensemble upon attaining the required standard. Performance ensembles contribute to the general musical growth of students. Rehearsals promote the further development of skills, teamwork, the recognition and resolution of ensemble problems and an understanding of musical content, structure and style.

This commitment includes regular attendance at rehearsals and performances:

Each ensemble performs several times throughout the year including events such as Music Night, Year 6 Presentation Evening, Eisteddfod, Fanfare (bi-annually) and the Fete. The schedule of public performances varies from year to year and is effected by current events and priorities. All public performances are advised well in advance, giving students and their families the opportunity to arrange for attendance.

## Ensemble Uniforms (Performance Uniforms)

The basic ensemble uniform is used by all groups and consists of:

- School music polo shirt purchased from the uniform shop. These can be worn as a school uniform also
- Black dress trousers or black full length skirt/ black knee length skirt (strictly no leggings/jeans)
- Black socks/opaque black stocking
- Black shoes (not sneakers)

The appearance of our ensembles is considered an important part of all performance. Every member is expected to wear the full ensemble uniform at performances.

## Music Camps

Each year selected students are given the opportunity to attend a music camp relevant to their current level of skill development. Through comprehensive tutorials and rehearsals these camps aim to:

1. Expand the repertoire of the ensembles;
2. Develop sectional awareness;
3. Promote a greater awareness of the whole ensemble and the blending of a variety of individual parts;
4. Develop advanced sight reading skills;
5. Resolve performance problems;
6. Reinforce and further develop expected rehearsal and performance conduct.

The location and dates for these camps may change from year to year. Adequate notice is always provided.

## Discontinuing lessons

By indicating a desire to learn an instrument and participate in the instrumental program, it is understood that the student has made a commitment to the program for the minimum term of one school year. If reasonable circumstances exist under which a student feels they are required to leave the program before that term, parents are asked to make an appointment meet with the Principal and instrumental staff to discuss the situation. If it is agreed that reasonable circumstances exist, the student will cease participation in the program.

# Calendar of Events

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## Term 1

- Week 1 Meeting held with all IM students (return of enrolment forms)  
Invoices sent home for lessons and hire of instruments  
Instrumental Music timetables to be organised and displayed  
at music room.
- Week 2 Instrumental music lessons begin (students receive school instrument at first lesson)  
Beginners will be required to have purchased book and accessories for their instrument.
- Week 3 Senior Orchestra and Concert Band rehearsals begin in the school music room.

## Term 2

Lunch time concert  
Fanfare  
Music Night

## Term 3

Fete  
Lunch time concert  
Music Night

## Term 4

Regional Primary Music Camp  
Year 6 Presentation Evening

*For further clarification or questions, please contact your child's instrumental music teacher.*