

**St. Andrew's Catholic  
School  
Ferny Grove**



**Instrumental Music  
Program 2018**

# **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

## St Andrew's Catholic School, Ferny Grove

### Aims

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

1. The right of each individual to develop his/her 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 required in performance.
4. The use of camps and or workshops to further enhance the development of knowledge and appreciation.
5. To use music to develop the individual – socially, emotionally and physically.

It is hoped that students of St Andrews Catholic School will participate in a comprehensive, educational and enjoyable Instrumental Music Program.

### How are students selected?

Students are selected for the program according to the following criteria:

- a) the student's keenness to learn;
- b) musical aptitude test;
- c) the student's and parents' commitment to organising daily practice and regular attendance at lessons and rehearsals.

### Instrument Selection

- a) Although the child's preference will be taken into account, instruments need to be distributed evenly, so that the group has a balanced sound. Band tuition is offered on the flute, alto and saxophones, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, bass clarinet, bass guitar, euphonium, baritone and percussion.
- b) The number of instruments available is very limited and the teacher will make an informed decision as to what instrument he/she thinks that the student will have greater success on.
- c) If you decline the instrument chosen for your child it is not possible to ask for a different instrument and the teacher will offer the instrument to another child on the waiting list.



### Commitment to the Program

Ideally, students entering the program are expected to stay the full length of their enrolment St Andrews Catholic School.

All students wishing to enter the program are required to commit for a minimum period of one year. Please consider this carefully, before allowing your child to enroll. This requirement is necessary as the progress and development of other students in the program is disrupted by fluctuations in student numbers. Furthermore, learning a musical instrument can be frustrating, especially in the initial months of tuition, and students often need to persevere beyond these difficulties, to fully enjoy the instrument and their participation in the program.

Only in extreme circumstances will a termination of contract be considered. Please be advised that termination also involves a fee which is payable should you withdraw.

Students are required to practice daily and attendance at lessons and rehearsals is of paramount importance. If your child cannot attend a lesson or rehearsal, it is expected that the student or their parent/guardian inform the teacher before the lesson/rehearsal.

In the case of lessons, this allows an alternative time to be arranged so that the student does not miss a week of tuition. If the student is unable to inform the teacher of their absence, parents are asked to send a note of explanation.

Students attend a 30-minute group lesson throughout the day, plus one morning band rehearsal (60 minutes) per week.

### Termination of Lessons

The instrumental teacher, in conjunction with the principal and the music teacher, may exclude children from tuition if:

They do not progress through lack of practice, attendance or aptitude. They do not attend band/ensemble rehearsals and performances. They do not take care of the instrument on loan by the school (if applicable). Fees are not kept up to date.

Students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Instrumental Music must give **6 weeks written notice to the principal**. Failure to do so will incur the charge of the current term's fee.

### Behaviour

Instrumental lessons are an extension of class learning and students are expected to behave as they do in class. Impoliteness and misbehavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances.



## Lessons and Rehearsals – What is Expected

### Lessons commence Week 1 – Term 1

1. Lessons are held once a week (30 min duration) at the music block during the school day. Students are required to be punctual and organised, ensuring they always bring their instrument and music books.
2. Rehearsals are held before school. Students are expected to be on time and attend all rehearsals.
3. Concerts, camps, workshops, eisteddfods and tours which are held throughout the year. Students are expected to participate in these events as well as any extra rehearsals. It is an expectation that all school functions where the bands perform, that your child will be available unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

It is a requirement that all students wear the formal school uniform to performances. The uniform can be purchased from St Andrews.

### Instrumental Teacher

The instrumental teacher at St Andrews Catholic School for 2018 is Mr Steven McKay. Mr McKay will be teaching on Thursday and Friday. Lessons are conducted at the school.

### Ensemble Times

**Junior Band:** Thursday 7:30 - 8:30am

**Senior Band:** Friday 7:30 - 8:30am

**Group lessons may not be on the same day as their band practice however the students may leave their instruments in the band room for the next day if required.**



## Practice

- a) Students should maintain a regular schedule of home practice all year. A little bit of careful practice is better than none at all.
- b) Your child's progress will depend a great deal on what is achieved during daily practice sessions at home. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your child at home.

## Time Schedule

Start with 10-15 minutes and increase steadily to a half hour, as the student's ability increases. Establish with your child, a weekly practice schedule.

This time can be split into two or three shorter sessions. Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule.

## Practice Goals

While a sufficient amount of time per day is important, it is also important to have definite goals in mind for each session. These goals might include the improvement of tone on one note, or the ability to play a lengthy tune or exercise without a mistake.

## Encouraging your child

Spend some time listening to your child practice. Offer constructive criticisms, but choose your words carefully. "That sounds better today", is preferable to "aren't you ever going to learn that?" Try the instrument yourself. Let the student teach you what he/she has learned.

## Instrument Hire/Buy Scheme Information

The school has a history with Woodwind & Brass Music store, 10 George St, Deception Bay.

When first entering the music program at St Andrews, you will be required to purchase a Essentials Package through Woodwind & Brass Music. Most parents end up either renting or buying this instrument through Woodwind & Brass as well.



## Equipment Requirements

When your child starts in the program, he/she will need both an instrument and a music pack. The music pack can be purchased through Woodswind & Brass as can the instrument, plus you have the option to rent or buy with the instrument.

You will receive a brochure with the rental request form with this booklet, allowing you to pre-order your music pack at Woodswind & Brass. You only need to tick the appropriate instrument pack box and either fax, email or drop into the store to collect.

If you are receiving this booklet in November, then you need to make sure the instrument and packs are ordered before Term 1 of the following year.

Please see the Woodswind & Brass brochure for instrument hire/buy prices.

## Fees and payment

Payment of a full term's lessons of **\$200 per term**, is to be made by the end of the third week of each new school term. Students will receive a minimum of 8 lessons and a maximum of 10.

## Absences from lesson

If your child cannot attend a lesson or rehearsal, it is expected that the parent/guardian must contact Mr McKay before the lesson/rehearsal via an email to [Steven.McKay@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Steven.McKay@bne.catholic.edu.au). If the school is not advised of the absence, then an SMS text message will be sent out to the parents advising them that their child has been marked absent and asking them to contact the school to advice the reason why.



### Beginner Workshop

The beginner workshop for First Year instrumental students is one full day of specialised tuition for your child's instrument.

Specialised teachers in wood, wind, brass and percussion come to the school to teach students the basics of their instrument. Students learn around six weeks' worth of lessons in one day and is a great kick-starter to your child's music education.

**For 2018 this workshop day will be held at the school on Saturday 27 January 2018.**

### Communication

Communication is essential in any band program.

We request that you supply a current email address, to become part of an Instrumental Music Email Tree, in which you will receive regular updates about the program.

Parents are also expected to regularly check the 'Instrumental Music' section of the school website for concert dates and ongoing communications via the school newsletter.

### In conclusion

Acceptance into the St Andrews Instrumental Music Program is a privilege which will provide your child with a wonderful opportunity to learn an instrument and experience the fun and excitement of playing music with their peers.

Regular practice and commitment to lessons and rehearsals will ensure that your child benefits greatly from this program.

We look forward to a productive and exciting new year! For further inquiries, please contact us through the school and we will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Steven McKay

Instrumental Music Coordinator

M.Mus, B. Mus, GradDip Education

[Steven.McKay@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Steven.McKay@bne.catholic.edu.au)





# Why join an Instrumental Music Program?

The benefits conveyed by Instrumental Music education can be grouped in four categories:

- \* Success in society
- \* Success in school
- \* Success in developing intelligence
- \* Success in life

## Benefit one: Success in society

Perhaps the basic reason that every child must have an education in music is that music is a part of the fabric of our society. The intrinsic value of music for each individual is widely recognised in the many cultures that make up Australian life; indeed, every human culture uses music to carry forward its ideas and ideals. The importance of music to our economy is without doubt.

The value of music in shaping individual abilities and character are attested in a number of places:

- \* *Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs).*  
Victorian Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report.  
Reported in Melbourne Chronicle, January 1998
- \* *"Music is a magical gift we must nourish and cultivate in our children, especially now as scientific evidence proves that an education in the arts makes better math and science students, enhances spatial intelligence in newborns and let's not forget that the arts are a compelling solution to teen violence, certainly not the cause of it!"*  
Michael Greene, Recording Academy President and CEO at the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards, February 2000

## Benefit two: Success in school

Success in society, of course, is predicated on success in school. Any music teacher or parent of a music student can call to mind anecdotes about effectiveness of music study in helping children become better students. Skills learned through the discipline of music, these stories commonly point out, transfer to study skills, communication skills and cognitive skills useful in every part of the curriculum.

Particularly through participation in ensembles; helps students learn to work effectively in the school environment without resorting to violent or inappropriate behaviour.



There are a number of hard facts that we can report about the ways that music study is correlated with success in school:

- \* *"The term 'core academic subjects' means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography."*  
No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, Title IX, Part A, Sec. 9101 (11)
- \* *A study of 237 second grade children used piano keyboard training and newly designed math's software to demonstrate improvement in math skills. The group scored 27% higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children that used only the math software.* Graziano, Amy, Matthew Peterson, and Gordon Shaw, "Enhanced learning of proportional math through music training and spatial-temporal training." *Neurological Research* 21 (March 1999)

### Benefit three: Success in developing intelligence

Success in school and in society depends on an array of abilities. Without joining the intense ongoing debate about the nature of intelligence as a basic ability, we can demonstrate that some measures of a child's intelligence are indeed increased with music instruction. Once again, this burgeoning range of data supports a long-established base of anecdotal knowledge to the effect that music education makes kids smarter.

What is new and especially compelling however, is a combination of tightly-controlled behavioural studies and groundbreaking neurological research that show how music study can actively contribute to brain development.

### Benefit four: Success in life

Each of us wants our children and the children of all those around us to achieve success in school, success in employment and success in the social structures through which we move, but we also want our children to experience "success" on a broader scale.

Participation in music, is not only based on a grounding in music education during the formative school years, but brings countless benefits to each individual throughout life. The benefits may be psychological or spiritual and they may be physical as well.



# Notes

