



Windsor State School

Knowledge is power

Instrumental Music Policy

Windsor State School provides a comprehensive Instrumental Music Program in which students learn to play a band or string instrument. The overarching purpose of the co-curricular Instrumental Music Program is to provide students with the opportunity to become musicians and experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play an instrument and to participate in performance ensembles. The main aim of the instrumental music program is to have a school **concert band** and **string orchestra**.

Instrumental Music is built on a comprehensive combination of learning styles and experiences, through which students develop increasing confidence and musical sensitivity throughout their years of learning as they engage with progressively complex techniques and a broadening range of genres and styles of music. The program provides an extra dimension to our classroom music program and an opportunity for musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis. Students are expected to participate in the school concert band or string orchestra, where students develop their performance skills as an integral part of their music education.

Instrumental Music Guidelines

An exciting Music Program offers Instrumental Music lessons to students in years 3-6 as follows:

Students in Years 3-6 (strings: violin, viola, cello, double bass) – School-based curriculum

- In year 2, students are selected to play a string instrument in the strings program to begin lessons in the following year.
- Instruction takes place in small groups for half an hour each week and is based upon the available time allocated to our school
- Lessons are free of charge, with a levy paid to the school to help fund the program.
- All students are required to purchase a tutor book as well as a number of incidentals.
- Students are matched to instruments based on availability, balance of ensembles, previous musical experience, commitment to hard work and student preference.
- Large group rehearsals are held before school and play at many school and community events.

Selection Process -

Factors taken into account in the recruitment process including: spaces available, instrumentation necessary for balanced ensembles, musical aptitude, best match of instrument for student, impact on learning in the classroom since lessons involve time away from class, students' work habits and behaviour.

Students in Years 4-6 (band: woodwind, brass and percussion) – School-based curriculum

- In year 3, students are selected to play a band instrument in the band program to begin lessons in the following year.
- Instruction takes place in small groups for half an hour each week and is based upon the available time allocated to our school
- Lessons are free of charge, with a levy paid to the school to help fund the program.
- All students are required to purchase a tutor book as well as a number of incidentals.
- Students are matched to instruments based on availability, balance of ensembles, previous musical experience, commitment to hard work and student preference.
- Large group rehearsals are held before school and play at many school and community events.

Selection Process

Factors taken into account in the recruitment process are: spaces available, instrumentation necessary for balanced ensembles, musical aptitude, best match of instrument for student, impact on learning in the classroom since lessons involve time away from class, students' work habits and behaviour.

Students in Years 3-6 (acoustic guitar) – Extra curricula offering – Private tuition by Mr Joe Fallon

- Year 2 students are also invited to audition for the acoustic guitar program that runs alongside the school's Instrumental Program. Lessons are at a cost (\$10 – subject to change) with a total of 32 lessons in each given year. Students are required to supply their own guitar. A further \$10 is required for ensemble participation and the purchase of a tutor book. Acoustic guitar tuition is provided by Mr Joe Fallon as an extra curricula vocation with lessons held outside school hours. Instruction takes place in small groups of approximately 8 students for half an hour each week.

Selection Process

Factors taken into account in the recruitment process are: spaces available, musical aptitude, students' work habits and behaviour

Parental Involvement

Parents play a vital role in supporting their child's learning in the instrumental program. All parents of students chosen to participate in the instrumental music program are required to attend the Parent Information session held in November, where further information regarding the Instrumental Music Program is distributed.

Further Opportunities

Students who exhibit commitment and musical ability may have the opportunity to join an ensemble in addition to their involvement in the Instrumental Music Program. Students who demonstrate a higher level of performance may be nominated by the Instrumental teacher for cluster events throughout the year.

Reports

All students in the Instrumental Music Program will be provided with an achievement report on their progress in instrumental lessons during each semester, just as in any other learning area or subject of the Australian Curriculum.

Conditions of Participation:

- Each instrumental music student must undertake a regular and consistent practice schedule to take full benefit of the tuition offered. Full parental/guardian support of the practice schedule is encouraged as recommended by the Instrumental Music Teacher.
- Students are expected to monitor their own instrumental timetable and attend lessons on time to gain maximum instructional time with their teacher.
- Students attend one lesson per week during class time, the student being withdrawn from class at a rotating or set time each week.
- Every student learning to play an instrument is required to be a member of the school band or orchestra, attend scheduled rehearsals and participate in performances during the year.
- The success of the program relies on students being committed and the expectation is that children entering the program continue through to year 6 and beyond.
- A limited number of instruments are available for loan from the school at a small cost. Instruments are on loan for one year after which time students are expected to purchase their own – except the larger more expensive instruments, such as double bass, euphonium or tuba.
- **Students who accept an offer into the string program will not be permitted to change into the band program in year 4.**

Date of last review: 8th August 2022
This policy is reviewed annually.