



Instrumental Music Program Handbook 2023

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WELCOME TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Gumdale State School Instrumental Music Program. We hope you and your child enjoy being a part of our program, as music is a lifelong skill that will be with them forever. It is our expectation that all students in our program will be fully committed to achieve their best at all times.

While playing a musical instrument can be difficult, it is also a very rewarding experience that brings with it many benefits; improved academic performance, builds confidence and resilience, patience and discipline, enhances reading ability, teamwork through participation in band, relieves stress, sense of achievement, improves memory and time management skills, sense of social belonging and of course, it is a lot of fun!

Please read through the information contained in this booklet carefully, as it outlines all the requirements and commitment expectations for both students and parents. If you have any problems, please refer to this booklet in the first instance as you will find answers to most questions in here.

We welcome your child's involvement in the program and look forward to hearing them perform very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Cipollone
Instrumental Music Teacher
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Lessons

- Students receive one weekly 30-minute group lesson with like instruments (where possible).
- A rotating timetable is used in order for students to avoid missing the same class lessons each week (see appendix for timetable example).
- Timetables will be emailed and hard copies distributed each term.
- Students will need to catch up on class/specialist subject work missed while attending instrumental lessons and complete additional homework when required.

Band Rehearsals

- Instrumental Music is an ensemble-based subject in which the main focus is on musicians playing as a member of an ensemble.
- Students learning instruments must become members of the school band program.
- Rehearsals are held from 7:30am to 8:30am once per week (arrival time 7:20am, day to be advised). Beginners will be advised by letter when it is time for Junior Band to start (usually from early Term 2).

Performances & Events

- The Bands have a number of opportunities throughout the year to perform at school and out-of-school functions. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Attendance is crucial to the success of any performance and for this reason, details regarding such performances will be released early in the year.
- Some regular events: Beginner Band Music Week (Junior Band), WAMM (Yr5/6), Music By The Bay, Manly Halloween Street Party, performances on assembly, end of year music evening, biannual Fanfare Festival.

Instrumental Music Curriculum

- Instrumental Music is a recognised co-curricular subject which compliments and extends from the classroom music program.
- Instrumental Music is an ensemble-based program consisting of ten achievement levels. There is no set time limit to complete each level, however students usually take between 6-12 months to complete each level.
- Assessment is carried out and students receive grades each semester on their Report Cards.
- Students performing in Level 7+ in Years 10-12 are eligible for QCE points for Instrumental Music.

Purchasing Own Instruments

For many, purchasing your child their own instrument is a logical step after the initial learning period. The first step if you have no prior knowledge of musical instruments is to contact your child's teacher. Below are some handy tips when looking to buy your child's first instrument;

- Only buy a reputable brand (Yamaha, Jupiter, etc).
- Cheaper quality instruments usually are made cheaply and can be harder to play.
- If buying new, going through a reputable shop will be easier if any warranty issues arise.

- If buying second hand, ask the seller to demonstrate that the instrument works. Avoid instruments that need work as repairs can often end up costing more than a brand new instrument.
- Avoid buying online from sites such as eBay, as this is a platform where counterfeit brand name instruments are often sold to unsuspecting buyers.

If in doubt, contact your child's Instrumental Music Teacher. In the appendix section of this document is a short list of music shops and retailers which also may be of some assistance.

EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Practise

Learning a musical instrument requires students to practise their instrument daily to allow for steady progress as mastery of technique. As students only have one lesson and one rehearsal per week, much of a child's progress happens during their own practise. The following tips will assist your child to maintain a healthy practise schedule;

- Practise at the same time each day or work out a schedule to practise at the same times each week and fit around other commitments.
- No distractions! Practise in a quiet space without distraction from siblings, TV/devices, etc.
- Set short term and long-term goals, *"By the end of the week I want to play No.44 with all correct notes and rhythms..."*, *"I am working towards completing Book 1 by the end of Term 3..."*
- Aim to Practise between 10-20mins per day in the first year of playing an instrument, and 20-30mins in the second and third year of playing.
- Sometimes multiple short practise sessions are more manageable than a long session.
- Practising with friends and/or relatives is a lot of fun and can be less tedious than playing alone.
- Use technology: The method books which are used do have an accompanying app which contains backing tracks for all songs along with the ability to audio record your child's playing. This can be a fun way to practise!

There will inevitably come a time when your child may not be as enthusiastic as when they began, or they may feel discouraged due to encountering a harder aspect of learning music.

It is important that we do not give in to the wishes to simply 'give up'. Contact your child's Instrumental teacher for advice for more information.

It is an expectation that once a child starts to learn an instrument, they will remain on that instrument for the remainder of their time at Gumdale State School. For example, if a child begins learning flute they are not permitted to change to saxophone.

Attendance

It is a requirement of enrolment in the Instrumental Music Program that students attend their weekly lesson and band rehearsal. If a student is absent from school, parents/carers should email the Instrumental Music Teacher to inform them of their child's absence before school so they are aware.

Occasionally students will have unavoidable clashes with their scheduled lesson time. In this case, students can contact their Instrumental Music Teacher as an alternate lesson time may be arranged.

Equipment

Along with needing a musical instrument to learn, families will be required to purchase other equipment in order to learn, such as;

- Consumable items (reeds, oils, cleaning/polishing cloths, etc)
- Music stand (for home practise)
- Method book (*Tradition of Excellence*)
- Drum sticks

Students using school-owned instruments will need to return these at the end of the year so that they may be serviced in readiness for the following year. The Instrumental Music Teacher must be informed immediately if there are any problems or breakages with the instruments, so that appropriate repair may be arranged.

Never attempt to repair an instrument as even simple problems can quickly lead to bigger issues (i.e. removing a stuck trumpet mouthpiece with pliers/multigrips can lead to welds coming apart and damage to tubing).

A brief list of music shops, technicians and required equipment can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Uniform

The GSS Concert Band requires a uniform. This consists of the Gumdale State School full formal uniform with black only shoes. Please see uniform guidelines on the [school website](#) or [parent handbook](#).

Costs

Tuition is free for all students, however, there are ongoing costs associated with being in the program such as consumable items, method book/s and the following annual contributions.

An **SRS Annual Music Contribution of \$50** applies to all students in the Instrumental and Choir Program to cover the following costs:

Sheet music	\$20.00
Music folder	\$16.30
Spare consumable items, including reeds, spare parts, neck straps, valve oil and cleaning cloths.	\$10.00
Maintenance and replacement of shared equipment, including music stands and percussion.	\$3.70

An **SRS Annual Hire Fee of \$100** a year applies to students using school instruments to a cover the following cost:

Instrument service fee	\$100
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Parents/carers are expected to purchase and replace consumable equipment when necessary, as only minimal spares are kept at school in case of emergency. Certain instruments require students to provide their own from the second year of playing (see [Appendix 1](#)).

Leaving the Program

It is an expectation that students remain in the program until at least the completion of their primary schooling at the end of Year 6 to allow for optimal development and to allow the most ideal balance of instruments in the band (e.g. To avoid too many or not enough of any given instrument).

In the case that the Instrumental Music Teacher decides that a student is unsuitable for the program due to lack of practise, attendance or aptitude, parents/carers will be informed.

Should parents wish to terminate lessons the following procedure must be followed:

- Parents/carers must organise a meeting with the Principal to discuss reasons for wanting their child to exit the program.

PLEASE NOTE: FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMOVE YOUR CHILD FROM THE PROGRAM.

INSTRUMENT SELECTION & LOANS

Students will be selected for the program according to various criteria;

- Student's keenness to learn along with appropriate behaviour and diligence across all other school areas/subjects
- Musical aptitude
- Classroom music knowledge/skills
- Physical characteristics pertinent to a particular instrument such as embouchure (structure of the mouth/teeth)
- Choice of instrument depends heavily on correct balance of the band, which means that not every student will end up learning their preferred choice of musical instrument. For example, a normal balance of a 37-member band could be described as follows; 6 flutes, 8 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 3 alto saxophones, 2 tenor saxophones, 6 trumpets, 1 French horn, 4 trombones, 1 euphonium/baritone, 1 tuba, 4 percussion.
- The Instrumental Music Teacher will give information about the appropriate choices of instrument for your child depending on physical and musical attributes. It is important to keep an open mind as some students will show potential on previously unthought-of instruments.
- A limited number of instruments will be available for loan from school at a non-refundable annual **SRS Instrumental Hire Fee of \$100.00** including GST. This is as well as an **SRS Annual Music Contribution of \$50** for sheet music, stands and resources, payable by all students in the program (one contribution payable per student if participating in both Band and Choir).

Education Queensland school instrument loans vary from one year to three years;

- 1 Year: Flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, glockenspiel (percussion). Students in the upper years are expected to purchase or privately hire their own instruments for continued use.
- 3 Year: Bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, euphonium/baritone, tuba and French horn.

APPENDIX 1

Required Equipment (Students to provide)

Flute

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Flute
- Cleaning Rod
- Polishing/cleaning cloth (microfibre cloth also appropriate)
- Music stand for home practice

Clarinet

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Bb (B-flat) Clarinet
- Pull-through cloth
- Reeds; No.2 reed will be appropriate for beginners
- Cork grease
- Music stand for home practice
- Mouthpiece cover (optional)

Saxophone

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for either **TENOR** or **ALTO** Saxophone
- Saxophone Neck strap
- Pull-through cleaning cloth
- Reeds; No.2 reed will be appropriate for beginners
- Cork grease
- Music stand for home practice
- Mouthpiece cover (optional)

Trumpet

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Bb (B-flat) Trumpet
- Valve oil
- Polishing/cleaning cloth (microfibre cloth also appropriate)
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush
- Music stand for home practice

Trombone

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Trombone (bass clef)
- Slide cream/oil
- Small water spray bottle
- Polishing/cleaning cloth (microfibre cloth also appropriate)
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush
- Music stand for home practice

Euphonium/Baritone

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Euphonium/Baritone (bass clef)
- Valve oil
- Polishing/cleaning cloth (microfibre cloth also appropriate)
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush
- Music stand for home practice

Tuba

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Tuba
- Valve oil
- Polishing/cleaning cloth (microfibre cloth also appropriate)
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush
- Music stand for home practice

Percussion

- *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 for Percussion
- Practice pad
- 5A drumsticks (wooden, with either nylon/plastic tip or wooden tip)
- Music stand for home practice

APPENDIX 2

Music Shops & Repair Technicians

This is not an exhaustive list, if you require more information contact your child's teacher.

Wynnum Music Centre

1/235 Bay Terrace, Wynnum

Ph: 07 3396 2324

Brass Music Specialists

90 Appel Rd Graceville

Ph: 3278 1311

Music Express

2048 Logan Rd Upper Mt Gravatt

Ph: 3849 7088

Ozwinds

360 Logan Rd, Greenslopes

Ph: 3118 0166

Mick's Mobile Music (repairs and sales)

Bracken Ridge

Ph: 0416 150 213

Geoff Secombe Music Repairs and Woodwind Specialist

Unit 7, 1631 Wynnum Rd, Tingalpa

Ph: 0431 471 526

All Winds Instrument Repair

Daisy Hill

Ph. 3209 3859

APPENDIX 3

Sample Timetable

Students are allocated a group and timetables are distributed via email and hard copies to families, teachers and students. Groupings are usually based on instrument type initially, however as students progress some groupings are based on skill level.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



Mr Cosic

Lesson Timetable – Term 3, 2020

	Week	1	2	3	4	*5	6	7	*8	9	10	
	Date	17/7	24/7	31/7	7/8	14/8	21/8	28/8	4/9	11/9	18/9	
Fridays	7:30 – 8:30	Junior Band Rehearsal (arrive 7:20)										
	9:00 – 9:30	Q	X _(GX)	W	V	Public Holiday	U	T	Pupil Free Day	S	R	
	9:30 – 10:00	R	Q	X _(DK)	W		V	U		T	S	
	10:00 – 10:30	S	R	Q	X _(GX)		W	V		U	T	
	10:30 – 11:00	T	S	R	Q		X _(DK)	W		V	U	
	11:00	First Lunch Break										
	11:45 – 12:15	U	T	S	R	No Band or Lessons	Q	X _(GX)	W	V		
	12:15 – 12:45	V	U	T	S		R	Q	X _(PS)	W		
	12:45 – 1:15	W	V	U	T		S	R	Q	X _(DK)		
	1:15	Second Lunch Break										
	1:50 – 2:20	X _(SB)	W	V	U		T	S		R	Q	
	2:20	NCT										

Week 5: Public Holiday – Ekka Week Holiday (now on Friday 14/8)

Week 8: Pupil Free Day

Group Q	Group R	Group S	Group T
Group U	Group V	Group W	Group X*

*For Percussion Lessons only: SB=Snare & Bass Drum, GX=Glockenspiel/Xylophone, DK=Drum Kit

REMEMBER...

- Bring a pencil, exercise book and Tradition of Excellence book to EVERY lesson.
- Arrive at your lesson a couple of minutes early to start on time; early is on time, on time is late! Please wait patiently in the hallway with your instrument out and ready, until Mr Cosic asks you to enter.
- Remember to collect your instrument BEFORE 3:15pm.