

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are my child's obligation to the music program?

Students who are accepted into the music program must remain in the program until the end of Year 8, attend all classes and instrumental lessons, practice their instrument on a regular basis, attend all ensemble rehearsals and performances and do their best at all times.

Can my child leave the program at any time?

No. Students who have accepted a place are making a commitment to stay in the music program until the end of Year 8. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, the program is based around the school's bands and ensembles and places are offered based on the type and number of instruments needed in each group to achieve a balance. When students leave it is usually not possible to move another student into their place. This can lead to imbalance in the ensemble. Secondly, it may be that a student has been offered a place to the exclusion of another applicant, and it is expected that they will see out their obligation at least until the end of Year 8.

Will my child have less options for other courses?

Yes. Music will take the place of one of the available options. Students who also choose Triathlon will also lose an option.

Can my child change instruments?

Under most circumstances, no. As previously stated, the balance of the ensembles dictates the number and type of instrumental places on offer. On occasion, students may be asked if they would like to move to a closely related instrument that is in short supply, for example, flute or clarinet to saxophone, or trumpet to tuba. The decision to offer a change is made on a case by case basis.

What costs are involved?

Students pay a small fee for class and ensemble music to cover equipment purchase and replacement and maintenance as well as covering the cost of sheet music and consumables. There is also a uniform that each student must purchase. Students are expected to have their own instrument in their second year of learning. Euphonium, horn, and tuba may be hired until the end of Year 12. There are several excursions throughout the year including the Concert Band and Guitar festivals at no cost to the students. There are costs to students for any camps or excursions including tours.

How are lessons timetabled?

Instrumental lessons are held during class time. Students' names are placed on a rotating roster and their lessons are at different times of the same day each week. This is done to avoid students missing the same class each time. Students in Year 11 and Year 12 usually have their lessons before or after school or during recess and lunchtime to avoid missing classes. It is the students' responsibility to make sure they catch-up on any work missed when attending instrumental lessons.

How much practice should my child be doing?

As a rough guide, students who are beginners should be practicing around 15 minutes a day, increasing to 30 minutes by six months. As they develop their repertoire and learn more challenging skills, this time will increase. For further information, please check the front section of the IMSS practice journal.

What are the performance opportunities for students in the music program?

All students enrolled in the music program are required to participate in at least one ensemble. This is their 'core' ensemble and is mandatory. Core ensemble is an assessed unit and is worth 20% of the semester mark for class music. Rehearsals are held before or after school hours once a week and there are several concerts/performances throughout the school year. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is compulsory. Students who play a wind instrument or percussion will be assigned to a concert band in line with their ability and experience. For most in year seven, this will be the Junior Band. As they progress, students move up into Intermediate Band and then Senior Band.

There are two guitar ensembles: Silver and Gold. Year seven guitar students are placed in the Silver Guitars and progress to Gold when they are ready.

For more information regarding Instrumental Music Schools Services, please refer to the

[IMSS website](#)

