



# ***Instrumental Music Handbook 2019***

This Handbook contains information on the All Souls St Gabriels School Instrumental Music program.  
Please read it carefully before completing the Instrumental Music Lesson Permission Form.

# General Lesson Information

## **Lesson Availability**

While information is included in this handbook for every instrument, the number and availability of lessons for each instrument is dependent upon the availability of a specialist tutor. When lessons are not offered on a student's preferred instrument, a permission form may be filled out and the student will be notified when lessons become available.

## **Signing Up**

Students may join the Instrumental Music Program at any time during the year. They will be added to the lesson timetable in the week following their permission form being received. In signing the lesson permission form, you are agreeing to lessons for the entire year or the remainder thereof.

## **Lesson Fees (per half-hour lesson, charged to school account)**

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Small Group (2-4 students)</i>	<i>Large Group (5+ students)</i>
Brass Woodwind Strings Guitar	\$25	\$16	\$12
Percussion Piano Voice Bass Guitar	\$25	\$16	
Recorder		\$8	
Theory		\$16	\$12

Please note that lesson fees may vary depending on tutor charges. Parents will be given one term notice of any fee changes.

## **Timetabling**

Lessons are timetabled on a weekly basis, with the timetable being displayed on the noticeboard outside the Music Classroom (Room 16) and Junior School office, posted on the School website and a copy emailed to all Junior School teachers. *It is the student's responsibility to check the timetable before school each Monday morning, and to remember their lesson time.* Lessons are held during school hours unless otherwise arranged with your child's tutor. Junior School students will, as much as possible, be given a fixed lesson time each week. Secondary students are put on a rotating timetable so they don't miss the same class every week, but may request a fixed lesson time if preferred. Group lessons with suitably matched students will be timetabled if an instrumental tutor has more students than will fit in their schedule.

## **Music Lesson Passes**

Senior School students must collect a Music Lesson Pass from the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator in the Band Room (Room 15) each Monday morning. Their lesson day, time, and location are recorded on this pass, and it grants them permission to leave class for their lesson. If a student misplaces their Music Lesson Pass, it is their responsibility to collect a replacement.

## **Absentees**

**Lessons:** Students are charged for every lesson timetabled unless they are formally absent from school or have notified the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator (preferred), Instrumental Tutor, School Office, or Head of Arts by 8.30am on the day of the lesson that they are unable to attend. This may be done in person, or via email or SMS (Instrumental Music Co-ordinator only – contact details on page 10).

Students with lessons earlier than 8.30am will be charged for their lesson unless they give notification of their absence prior to their lesson time. This may be done via email or SMS to the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator.

Students will be notified after they have missed two consecutive lessons with no notice given, and parents will be contacted after three consecutive missed lessons.

**Ensemble rehearsals:** Students need to let their ensemble director know in advance if they are unable to attend a rehearsal. Clashes between ensemble rehearsals and other school activities will be resolved between the Head of Arts or Instrumental Music Co-ordinator and the co-ordinator of the conflicting activity.

## **Resigning from Lessons**

If a student wishes to withdraw from lessons, notification must be given to the School in writing (handwritten note or email) by parents. To be fair to our tutors, any student who chooses to cancel lessons during a school term will still be charged for lessons until the end of term. Students will be considered to be continuing with lessons if notification of cancellation is not given by the first day of term.

## **Changing Instrument**

Students wishing to change to a different instrument will need to complete a new lesson permission form. Changing instruments should be considered in consultation with the instrumental tutor.

# *Transport*

Throughout the year, some students will need to travel to venues outside the school grounds for various performances/excursions. As this often only involves several students at a time, it is not always necessary to use the School bus for transport. In these cases, students will be transported in arts teachers' or instrumental tutors' personal vehicles. **In signing the lesson permission form, you are giving permission for your child to travel to and from school-related events within the Charters Towers area with any appropriately licensed (open class) member of ASSG arts staff or instrumental tutor.** Parental permission will be requested for any trips outside the Charters Towers area.

# *Practice*

Home practice is a very important part of learning an instrument. Any instrument requires new skills to be learnt, and needs certain muscles to be strengthened. Lessons are for learning, and home is for remembering and reinforcing. Beginning students should aim to practise at least five days each week, starting with 15 minute sessions and extending that as they progress and build up the stamina to practise for longer. *Students are less likely to forget to practise if it is made part of their daily routine.*

Children have a tendency to practise only the easy/fun songs; they should try to practise *everything* set by their tutors, and should always use the correct technique and posture when they play. Even the simplest song or exercise should sound musical and fluent if it is played correctly. The best practice technique is rarely playing a song through from start to finish over and over again. Rather, students should find the trouble spots and work on those sections separately until they are mastered and then try the whole song again.

Boarding students may practise in one of the music classrooms between 3.00-6.00pm Monday-Thursday.

## *Instrument Hire & Care of School Equipment*

The following instruments are available to hire from the school for \$55/year (no charge for students in Senior Concert Band, Stage Band, or Senior String Ensemble):

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Violin ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , & full size)
- Viola (full size)
- Cello (full size)
- Double Bass ( $\frac{3}{4}$ )
- Acoustic Guitar ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , & full size)
- Electric Guitar
- Bass Guitar

Students are expected to take care of hired instruments, and return them in the same condition they received them (excepting general wear and tear). The instruments should not be used by other family members who do not know how to look after the instrument appropriately. This is especially applicable to young siblings.

Failure to look after a hired instrument will result in the instrument being taken off the student, and damage repair or replacement costs will be charged to their school account. The same applies to any other School equipment that has been loaned to students, including but not limited to books, instrument stands, electronic equipment, and instrument accessories.

Parents/students wishing to purchase their own instrument should seek guidance from tutors. While there are many cheap, new instruments being sold on sites like eBay and also in some music shops, they are usually a music teacher's nightmare. Brand names count. Cheap brands lack the build quality, ergonomics, playability, tuning, tone, and serviceability of quality brands. **A reputable brand second-hand instrument is usually a better option than a lower priced new instrument.**

# *Brass/Woodwind Lessons*

Lessons are available on:

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Euphonium

Students may try the different instruments before signing up to ensure they choose one they like and will be able to produce a good sound on.

Students may start brass/woodwind lessons in Year 4. Tenor and baritone saxophone are larger instruments and are better suited to slightly older children. Students wishing to learn these instruments can start on alto saxophone and easily swap over as they grow.

Woodwind students will need the following equipment:

- Reeds\* – \$3-\$8 (clarinet, saxophone), \$30 (oboe). Need to be replaced as they are broken. If care is taken, reeds can last a full term or longer.
- Cork grease\* – approx. \$4/tub. One tub should last a full year.
- Mouthpiece protector patch\* - \$8. One patch should last a full year.
- Theory workbook\* – approx. \$20
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25
- Small exercise book or notebook

Brass students will need the following equipment:

- Valve oil\* – approx. \$9/bottle. One bottle should last most of the year. (Trumpet, French Horn, and Euphonium only.)
- Slide cream\* – approx. \$8/tub. One tub should last most of the year. (Trombone only.)
- Theory workbook\* – approx. \$20
- Small spray bottle for water – approx. \$5. (Trombone only.)
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25
- Small exercise book or notebook

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

## *Recorder Lessons*

Recorder lessons may be taken by students from years one to three. The focus of the lessons will be developing students' understanding of written music and music theory and gaining finger dexterity with the aim of moving to a brass or woodwind instrument when they are old enough. These groups will give children a chance to start learning as soon as they show an interest in the Instrumental Music program, without facing the issues of developing teeth or struggling with instruments that are too large for them.

Recorder students will need the following equipment:

- Recorder – from approx. \$10
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25
- Theory workbook\* – approx. \$20
- Method book\* – approx. \$20

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

# *Piano Lessons*

Students may commence piano lessons at any age. Piano is an excellent choice for young students to start learning music, as it gives them a base understanding of music they can apply to the other instruments when they are older.

Piano students will require the following equipment:

- Method book\* – approx. \$20
- Theory workbook\* – approx. \$20
- Instrument for home practice. Even a small electronic keyboard is sufficient.
- Small exercise book or notebook

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

# *Percussion Lessons*

Lessons are available on:

- Drum Kit/Auxiliary Percussion
- Mallet Percussion (glockenspiel/xylophone/timpani)

Students may start percussion lessons from Year 3.

Percussionists will need the following equipment:

- Drum sticks\* – approx. \$20
- Theory workbook\* - approx. \$20
- Drum kit or practice pad (practice pad – approx. \$30).
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25
- Small exercise book or notebook

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

# *Vocal Lessons*

Students may commence vocal lessons in Year 4.

Vocal students will need the following equipment:

- USB stick for backing tracks
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25
- Theory workbook\* – approx. \$20
- Small exercise book or notebook

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

# *Guitar Lessons*

Lessons are available on:

- Acoustic Guitar
- Electric Guitar (lessons are held after school, limited places)
- Bass Guitar

Students may take up acoustic guitar from Year 4. Bass and Electric Guitar lessons may be considered from approx. Year 5/6, depending on the student's arm length.

Guitar students will need the following equipment:

- Strings\* – approx. \$20. Need to be replaced as they break or wear out – should last a year or two. (Strings are supplied with school instruments).
- Pick\* – approx. \$1. Need to be replaced when broken or lost.
- Tuner – approx. \$10 (A tuner is supplied with school instruments).
- Tuner battery\* - approx. \$5
- Theory workbook\* – approx. \$20
- Method book\* – approx. \$25
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25
- Small exercise book or notebook

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

# *String Lessons*

Lessons are available on:

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass

Students may begin violin lessons at any age, although students requiring an instrument smaller than ¼ size will need to provide their own. Viola, Cello, and Double Bass lessons can be started from approx. Year 6/7, depending on the student's height/arm length. Younger students may start these instruments earlier if they have their own ½ or ¾ size instrument.

String students will need the following equipment:

- Resin\* – approx. \$12. Should last all year.
- Strings\* – approx. \$60/set. Need to be replaced as they break or wear out - should last a year or two. (Strings are supplied with school instruments.)
- Tuner – approx. \$10 (A tuner is supplied with school instruments).
- Tuner battery\* - approx. \$5
- Music stand for home practice – approx. \$25.
- Theory workbook – approx. \$20.
- Small exercise book or notebook

**\*These items will be given to students by their instrumental tutor as required throughout the year and charged to the student's School account.**

# ***AMEB Theory Classes***

AMEB theory is a very good supplement to classroom music, and may also be used to help students progress further through the theory work they would otherwise be doing as part of their instrumental lessons.

Theory classes (group lessons) are held weekly, at lunch times or after school, depending on student and tutor availability. In these classes, students work through graded AMEB theory books with the goal of sitting an AMEB theory exam when each book is completed (more information on AMEB is included below). Theory exams up to grade four may be sat online at any time of the year. Written exams for all grades are held in October. Most students work at the pace of one grade per year.

Theory books cost approximately \$20 and will be purchased through the school and charged to students' school accounts. AMEB exam costs range from \$60 - \$80 for Grade 1 – 6.

## ***AMEB***

The Australian Music Examinations Board offers graded exams in both Theory of Music and Practice of Music from preliminary standard right through to diploma levels. It is a nationally recognised standard. Exams from Grade 4 and higher are recognised by the Queensland Studies Authority and contribute points to the student's QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education).

Practical exams are offered on brass, woodwind, string (including classical guitar), and keyboard instruments, as well as singing. These exams are held in May or August/September each year, usually in Townsville. Most exams will be sat in the May session.

Students prepare 3-6 pieces, depending on grade and instrument, from the AMEB syllabus during the year, as well as scales, aural skills, and general knowledge. In the exam they are graded with Unsatisfactory, Pass, Credit, Honours, or High Distinction, and receive a comments sheet from the examiner and a certificate. Students may require several extra lessons in the lead up to the exam, and will need to rehearse once or twice with an accompanist, which will be added to the cost.

It is strongly suggested that students sitting Grade 5 or higher take two lessons per week, or one hour lesson.

All timetabling and administration of these exams is done through AMEB. AMEB send examiners up from Brisbane to ensure a uniform standard throughout the state.

Exam costs range from approx. \$80 – \$200 for Preliminary – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.



## ***Bands and Ensembles***

<b>Ensemble</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Rehearsal Time</b>
Concert Band	Senior School students – brass, woodwind, percussion.	Monday 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Stage Band	Senior School students - trumpet, trombone, saxophone, percussion, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, vocalists.	Friday 7.20am – 8.30am
Junior Band	Junior School students – brass, woodwind, percussion.	TBC 8.00am – 8.30am
String Ensemble	Senior School students – violin, viola, cello, double bass.	TBC
Junior String Ensemble	Junior School students – violin, viola, cello.	TBC
Percussion Ensemble	Senior School students – Percussion instruments. Open to all Senior School students learning music – a basic understanding of rhythm is required.	TBC
Senior Choir	Senior School students – vocalists. Open to all students.	Thursday 1.00pm – 1.30pm
Year 5/6 Choir	All students.	TBC During School
Year 3/4 Choir	All students.	TBC During School
Year 1/2 Choir	All students.	TBC During School

***It is essential to the progress and quality of the ensemble that all students arrive to rehearsals on time and that a committed effort is made by every student to attend every rehearsal.***

Other ensembles including smaller brass/woodwind ensembles and specialist vocalist groups often rehearse for various events throughout the year. Small ensemble work encourages students to listen more closely to each other and develops a stronger sense of rhythm, tuning, and individuality in their playing. Suggestions are welcome for the kinds of ensembles students would like to form.

## ***Performances***

Performing can be a frightening prospect for some students, but it gives them the opportunity to demonstrate what they've been doing and gives a sense of accomplishment. While some events require more accomplished players, performing doesn't have to mean getting up on your own and playing the hardest piece of music ever seen. Students can start performing at informal school concerts with simple pieces that they've been learning in their lessons.

Performance opportunities include assemblies, Chapel services, JS concerts, SS concerts, CT Eisteddfod (even very beginners may compete), Green Dinner, Speech Day, community events, and combined school concerts.

# *Eisteddfod*

The Charters Towers Eisteddfod is an amateur performing arts competition for school children including Music, Speech and Drama, Dance, and Visual Arts. It is held in August each year.

The music sections are:

- Vocal Solo
- Musical Theatre Vocal Solo - Year 6 & under
- Own Choice Vocal Solo - Year 8 & over
- Vocal Duet
- Novelty Vocal Duet
- Vocal Group
- Small Vocal Group
- Piano Solo
- Piano Duet
- Stringed Instrument Solo
- Guitar Solo
- Woodwind Solo
- Brass Solo
- Percussion Solo
- Instrumental Duet
- Instrumental Trio/Quartet
- Instrumental Ensemble

Each section is split into several age groups so even very beginner students can perform; many of the young competitors just play a simple song from their method books. It is a great opportunity for students to showcase the effort they've put in to learning their instrument, with the added incentive of possibly taking home a medal!

Students are encouraged to decide which sections they would like to enter early in the year so they have plenty of time to learn their music. The best defence against stage fright/nerves is knowing one's music very well. Students may choose to be accompanied by guitar or piano in their solos.

## *Contact Details*

If you require further information on the Instrumental Music Program or have any questions or concerns about your child's lessons or upcoming events/performances, please feel free to contact the School Office or Instrumental Music Co-ordinator (preferred). These contact details may also be used for notifying the School if your child is unable to attend their lesson.

### **Leslie Croker – Instrumental Music Co-ordinator**

Email: [lcroker@allsouls.qld.edu.au](mailto:lcroker@allsouls.qld.edu.au)

Phone/Text: 0439 504237

Staffroom: Room 15 (Band Room)

## Instrumental Music Lesson Permission Form

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR LEVEL (2019): \_\_\_\_\_

**My child requires private tuition for the following (Handbook – page 5-8):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Flute <input type="checkbox"/> Oboe <input type="checkbox"/> Clarinet <input type="checkbox"/> Bass Clarinet <input type="checkbox"/> Alto Saxophone <input type="checkbox"/> Tenor Saxophone <input type="checkbox"/> Baritone Saxophone <input type="checkbox"/> French Horn	<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpet <input type="checkbox"/> Trombone <input type="checkbox"/> Euphonium <input type="checkbox"/> Recorder <input type="checkbox"/> Drum Kit / Aux. Percussion <input type="checkbox"/> Mallet Percussion <input type="checkbox"/> Piano <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory	<input type="checkbox"/> Violin <input type="checkbox"/> Viola <input type="checkbox"/> Cello <input type="checkbox"/> Double Bass <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic Guitar <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Guitar <input type="checkbox"/> Bass Guitar <input type="checkbox"/> Voice
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**My child is interested in joining the following ensembles (Handbook – page 9):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Band <input type="checkbox"/> Stage Band <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Band <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Choir	<input type="checkbox"/> Percussion Ensemble <input type="checkbox"/> String Ensemble <input type="checkbox"/> Junior String Ensemble
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**If your child has their own instrument, please provide the following details:**

INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_ CASE: Hard / Soft / None (Circle one)

BRAND: \_\_\_\_\_ SERIAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**If your child can attend lessons outside of school hours, please list available days/times below:**

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Please tick one option for each of the following:	Handbook Page	Yes	No	N/A
My child requires a School instrument.	4			
I understand it is my child's responsibility to look after all School property, and any repair or replacement costs of such will be charged to their account.	4			
<i>Percussion only:</i> My child requires a drum practice pad (charged to school account).	6			
<i>Piano only:</i> My child has a Piano or Electric Keyboard at home to practise on.	6			
<i>Piano only:</i> My child doesn't have a Piano or Electric Keyboard at home to practise on, but will be getting one soon.	6			
My child requires a music stand (charged to school account).	5-7			
<i>Guitar &amp; Strings only:</i> My child requires a tuner.	7			
My child is interested in obtaining AMEB qualifications.	8			
My child requires two lessons per week to prepare for their AMEB exam.	8			
My child understands they will have a different lesson time each week and knows where the lesson timetable can be found.	2			
<i>Senior School only:</i> My child understands they are required to collect a Music Lesson Pass from Room 15 (Band Room) each Monday morning.	2			
I understand I will be charged for any lessons my child does not attend without giving sufficient notice of their absence to the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator.	3			
I understand individual practice between lessons is an important part of learning, and will encourage my child to be organised in this.	4			
<b>I have read and agree with all terms and fees set out in the 2019 Instrumental Music Handbook. I consent to my child taking lessons in the above areas with the understanding that all lesson fees, school instrument hire, and any specific instrument equipment requirements will be made payable to the School.</b>				

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_