

Learning music is very much a part of general School activities. Many students are already taking private instructions with one or more of the vocal or instrumental tutors employed by the School.

The Music Department engages a large number of visiting instrumental teaching staff, covering a wide range of vocal, string, wind, brass, keyboard and percussion instruments. Private and group lessons are given weekly during term time. Most students receive a 30 minute private or group lesson per week, but as the student progresses on the instrument, it may be opportune for their private lesson to be extended to 45 or 60 minutes.

Additionally, each student who is learning privately is encouraged to participate in an ensemble. These ensembles are graded so that each student can be placed into a group appropriate to their level of proficiency. These activities are designed to supplement and extend the work that is covered in private lessons and also to provide performance opportunities at various concerts that are arranged during the year.

It is a policy of the School that all instrumental students perform in at least one concert or assembly each semester.

Studio Soiree Concerts are held each term, allowing students and parents to see the various levels of individual instrumental teacher's student, as well as giving students the opportunity to perform.

Many parents and guardians enquire how they can help encourage their child with their musical studies. Even if you know nothing about music, you can help in several ways. The most important is to organise your child into a regular practice routine. Ideally, this should be done at a set time each day – before school, after school or in the early evening. Practice should be done at least five times per week.

The amount of practice time required will vary from teacher to teacher and student to student. Beginners should start with approximately 10 to 15 minutes for each practice session. The rate of progress and the amount of pleasure derived from playing an instrument depends largely upon the amount of practice, the regularity of practice, and the concentration and efforts that are applied during the practice routine.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend lessons if they can. This will enable them to watch the techniques used by the teacher and to discuss specific problems, length and routine of practice items, and generally ways of maintaining the child's interest during the more difficult stages of learning.

General Information



CHOOSING A SUITABLE INSTRUMENT

Here are some things to consider when choosing an instrument for your child.

Your child's preference should be considered. Some children have very strong attachment to a particular instrument. If this is the case, you should follow their preference because they are more likely to be motivated to practice and will probably make quicker progress.

Consideration should be given to the child's physical situation. For example, some children are not big enough to manage particular instruments comfortably. Further, if your child is expected to have extensive orthodontic treatment, it may be advisable to choose an instrument other than woodwind or brass. It is possible to play instruments in such circumstances, but it would be best to check with your dentist or the Head of Music and Performing Arts.

Larger instruments may be difficult to carry if your child travels to School by public transport. There are various solutions to this problem, one of which is to have your own instrument at home and hire an instrument for lessons at School. Another solution would be to organise car transport for one or two days per week that the instrument is required at School.

If your child learns piano or drums, you must have one of these instruments at home for practise. Your child must have a music stand if they are studying any instrument other than piano, harpsichord or organ.

If you require further advice, you are encouraged to speak with the Director of Music and Performing Arts.

Choosing a Suitable Instrument

CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

The Music Tuition Application Form must be completed and returned to Music Reception.

Instrument lessons are given mainly between 8.00am and 4.00pm and are allocated on a rotating timetable.

The number of lessons varies according to the term length. The instrumental tutor will send accounts after the commencement of each term and are payable within 14 days of billing.

A limited number of instruments are available from the Music Department for hire. If you are interested in hiring an instrument from the School, you must make an application through the Music Department. Instruments may be hired for a maximum of two years and will be billed to the student's account each term. It is expected that students will have purchased their own instrument in this time if they intend to continue.

It is expected students starting an instrument will continue the tuition for a minimum of one year unless the teacher advises otherwise.

If a student decides to withdraw from lessons, notice must be given in writing to the Head of Music and Performing Arts and to the Music Tutor, from the parent or guardian on or before the last day of term. No refund will be given for lessons discontinued during the term.

Private music lessons are given once a week during term time. As most of the School's instrument teachers are part-time cocurricular staff and work in other schools on other days of the week, it is often not possible to make up lessons missed on public holidays, etc.



Conditions - Instrumental Tuition



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CONDITIONS (CONTINUED)

Lessons are arranged so that none fall on days when the whole School is involved in activities such as sport carnivals or examinations. A credit will not be given for lessons missed because, for example, a child forgets to attend, is ill or has a dental appointment. This is necessary as the teacher is committed and booked for that time slot.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to note the day and time of their child's lesson via the School diary so students can be reminded to take their instrument, equipment and music to School on the day of their lesson.

Lessons are made up at the teacher's discretion and will only be made up if possible to do so. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/student to notify the student's teacher directly of any inability to attend an instrument lesson for whatever reason, including School excursions. Any arrangements for re-scheduled lessons should be discussed with the teacher at this time.

In addition to a private lesson, all students will be encouraged to participate in an instrument ensemble (more advanced students will be involved in more than one group). Most ensembles rehearse out of School hours.

Musicianship classes are strongly recommended for all students studying an instrument. Musicianship is a combination of the theory of music, the development of aural awareness and a basic understanding of the history of music. This allows the student to progress more rapidly and confidently in their practical music studies.



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