

## **OVERVIEW OF THE INCLUSIVE MUSIC PROGRAM**

Birkdale South provides opportunities for children to participate in choirs, string ensembles, concert bands and guitar, drum and keyboard lessons. The Inclusive Music Program is coordinated by the classroom music teacher. Specialist instrumental instructors are responsible for providing tuition for the instrumental ensembles while the classroom music teacher conducts the choirs.

## **AIMS OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM – BAND & STRING INSTRUMENTS**

- To provide an extra dimension to a school music program ensuring that educational outcomes are maximised for all students, taking full account of individual circumstances such as their location, gender, socio-economic situation, their language and cultural background, and any special needs or special talents they may have.
- To provide the opportunity for musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis.
- To provide ensemble experience so that students develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their music education. In most situations, this ensemble experience would be provided through the formation of school concert bands, string ensembles, choirs and other ensembles.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM (CONCERT BAND & STRING ENSEMBLE)**

The Queensland Instrumental Music Program is a comprehensive tuition program in which students learn orchestral or band instruments.

Instrumental music teachers are allotted to schools under the direction of the District Director.

The program of instrumental music instruction is organised to operate on a pyramid structure i.e. a secondary school at the peak with the feeder primary schools at the base. It is intended that an instrumental music teacher's itinerary consist of one or two secondary schools and a number of primary schools.

Instruction is organised on a group basis and all students are required to participate in school ensembles as soon as they are technically ready.

Students should have at least two contact periods per week, one in an instrumental music lesson and at least one in an ensemble rehearsal.



## STAFF

Our Inclusive Music Co-coordinator is:	Sally Mansfield
Our Instrumental Teachers are:	Petina Winch (brass/ woodwind/ percussion/bass guitar) Julie Schmidt (violin, viola, cello)
Our Band Director is:	Petina Winch
Our String Ensembles Director is:	Julie Schmidt
Our Junior Choir Teacher is:	Sally Mansfield
Our Senior Choir Teacher is:	Sally Mansfield
Our Boys Choir Teacher is:	Sally Mansfield

## SELECTION FOR THE BAND & STRING PROGRAMS

- Classroom music ability
- The student's attitude, physical characteristics
- Parent commitment

The student's classroom academic ability, co-operation, reliability, ability to work both independently and in groups are assessed to determine their suitability to be part of the Band or String Programs.

The student's keenness to learn, musical aptitude, physical characteristics pertinent to a particular instrument, commitment of both student and parent to daily practice and also their commitment to regular attendance at lessons, rehearsals and performances are also taken into consideration.

The instrumental music teachers will recommend an instrument for each student. Once this has been agreed to by the parent, children are encouraged to continue with that instrument until the end of Year 6.

**From 2017 BSSS has brought its student selection policy in line with the rest of the South East Region. This means that students can only participate in one strand of the instrumental music program i.e. band program or string program.**

## EXPECTATIONS

Taking up a position in the instrumental music program is an honour afforded to the minority of students. Taking one of the positions offered is a minimum 12 month commitment with a view to continuing in the program for up to 4 years. After this period of music tuition and experience students will be prepared to move forward into High School Instrumental Music programs and ensembles with confidence.

## INSTRUMENTS

The school has a number of instruments for hire to students in the program. Parents are not expected to purchase large, expensive instruments. These instruments include Euphonium, French Horn, Bass Clarinet, Cello etc. Pupils using these school instruments will be asked to pay a hire fee. A refundable deposit fee is required for use of all school instruments.

Where parents are considering the purchase of an instrument for their child, it is important that they consult with the instrumental teacher or the co-coordinator before making any purchase. The brand and other specifications need to be carefully considered.

School instruments are to be returned at the end of each year on a date as advised by the instrumental teacher.

## OTHER EQUIPMENT

Each instrument also has extra equipment such as cleaning gear, reeds, valve oil etc. that needs to be supplied – a list of requirements specific to each instrument is sent home once the student has been accepted into the Band or String Program.

## LESSONS AND HOME PRACTICE

Lessons are conducted in school time once a week. Each of these lessons is half an hour in length and is conducted on a group basis with no less than 2, no more than 10 students learning together. On occasions these classes are made up of a mixture of instruments.

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During lessons, students will be taught musical exercises, studies and ensemble work appropriate to their ability levels. Home practice in between lessons in these three areas is fundamental to developing a solid musical foundation. Students will be given a practice sheet for the year, where they will record which exercises, studies and ensemble pieces are to be practiced and how many minutes they practice each day. The Department of Education recommends 30 minutes practice be done at least five times a week. However, for beginners, this may not be possible until they gain a little more knowledge (15 minutes per day). Teachers will check regularly on the amount and consistency of home practice (failure, on the students' behalf, to practice will ultimately result in termination of lessons).

## **BAND & STRING ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS / PERFORMANCES**

Once students have achieved a degree of proficiency on their instruments they will be required to join the Band or Junior String Ensemble. The band and string ensembles rehearse once a week in the music room. The music selected for the band or string ensemble will be a balanced program of styles and is designed to complement the skills learned during lessons. Once the band or string ensemble has prepared enough material for a public performance, it will perform at school functions about once each term. Other events throughout the school year may include eisteddfods. It is expected that the instrumental students be available for all of their band or string ensemble performances.

## **MUSICAL MATERIALS NEEDED FOR LESSONS/REHEARSALS/PERFORMANCES**

Each student will need a music book – for band this is the 'Tradition of Excellence' Book 1 (red cover), for strings it is the 'Encore on Strings' Book 1 (blue cover). Students will also require a **display folder (with plastic inserts)** for band or string ensemble music. A **music stand** is required for home use as this will enable students to develop correct posture and practice skills.

## **REPAIRS**

The cost of servicing school instruments annually will be met by the school. Repair costs for school instruments from wilful damage or negligence by the student must be met by the parent/carer. The cost of servicing and repair of instruments owned by the student is met by parent/carer.

## **CAMPS**

Non-residential day camps are held annually (one in each year your child learns an instrument). The cost of these camps is kept to a minimum and is currently \$60 - 90. Parents are encouraged to help with transport as necessary.

## **MUSIC UNIFORMS**

The school music program has an official school music uniform which all music groups except Junior & Boys Choir are required to wear. There is a non refundable hire fee of \$20 for the uniform per year.

## **MANAGEMENT FEE**

All participants in the Inclusive Music Program are required to contribute financially to the program. The management fee is calculated to cover the cost of many aspects of the program and is collected as a one off payment. This approach reduces the ongoing administration of the program.

The management fee includes

- bus hire cost
- competition fees
- sheet music
- repair and replacement of equipment
- program administration

The management fee is paid as a lump sum or a payment plan can be negotiated with the school administration. The fee is reviewed annually and is endorsed and approved by the Principal and the P&C Association.

## STUDENT AND PARENT COMMITMENT

Students and parents involved in both the instrumental music program and choir are required to sign Student Resource Scheme agreement. Signing this agreement enrolls your child in the band or string program for the whole school year.

Every student must agree to:

1. Practise regularly at home (15 - 30 minutes, 5 times a week)
2. Become a member of a school concert band or string ensemble
3. Take part in all lessons, rehearsals, workshops and performances. (Attendance is monitored by teachers, missed lessons or rehearsals require a note to the teacher. If a student does not observe school policy on attendance at lessons, rehearsals or performances, the lessons may be terminated.)
4. Student behaviour at rehearsals and performances must at all times comply with the school Code of Behaviour.

Students who do not sustain their commitment to the program may be requested to leave.

Parents are required to:

1. Provide a suitable instrument (where necessary) and keep it in good repair.
2. Find a quiet place for them to practise without interruption.
3. Arrange a regular time for practise every day.
4. Listen to and help with practise.
5. Promote care of instrument.
6. Provide suitable music materials, grease, oils etc. and cleaning needs.
7. Encourage your child to be on time for lessons and rehearsals.
8. Encourage your child to play for others whenever possible.
9. Never make fun of any 'strange' sounds he/she makes.
10. Contribute to the appropriate music management fee.
11. Consult with the instrumental Music Teacher, Music Co-coordinator or School Principal if they feel their child is having difficulties.

## SUMMARY OF FEES

Ensemble	Description of Fee	Cost	Special Notes
** Beginner Band students	Management Fee	\$60	
	Beginner's Music Week	\$90 (subject to change)	This is an optional activity – it is highly recommended that students participate
^^ Beginner String Students	Management Fee	\$60	
	Beginner's Workshop	\$50 (subject to change)	This is an optional activity – it is highly recommended that students participate
Senior Band	Management Fee	\$60	
	Intermediate Music Week	\$60 (subject to change)	This is an optional activity – it is highly recommended that students participate
Senior String Ensemble	Management Fee	\$60	
	Intermediate Music Week	\$60 (subject to change)	This is an optional activity – it is highly recommended that students participate
Senior Choir	Management Fee	\$20	waived if student is also in band or string program
** ^^ All Ensembles	Music Uniform Hire Fee	\$20	must be paid before taking the music uniform home
## Those students in Band or String program using a school instrument	School Instrument Deposit Fee	\$50	must be paid before taking the instrument home this fee is refunded when the instrument is returned in good working order at the end of the year
	School Instrument Hire Fee	\$100	must be paid before taking the instrument home

**\*\* these are the fees that a student beginning in the Band Program would need to pay**

**^^ these are the fees that a student beginning in the String Program would need to pay**

**## these are the fees that a student using a school instrument would need to pay**