

ASPLEY *STATE SCHOOL*

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

*Where music
comes alive*



The Music Program

Music is an integral part of life at Aspley State School. The aim of the Music Program is to develop creativity, which is present in varying degrees in all children. The development of the child's awareness of music, response to music and the development of the capacity for self-expression achieve this.

As for other curriculum areas, learning is activity based and through a variety of activities, the children are taught the basic skills of music – beat, rhythm, pitch, singing, movement, listening, musical literacy, creating and playing. Great emphasis is placed on the playing aspect.

Staff

Mrs Briony McIntyre – Classroom Music Teacher and Program Coordinator

Ms Christine Jabs – Instrumental Teacher (Multi)

Ms Amanda Jerram – Instrumental Teacher (Strings)

Our school has many ensembles and choirs:

- Senior Concert Band
- Junior Concert Band
- Senior String Orchestra
- Junior String Orchestra
- Senior Choir (Year 4-6)
- Junior Choir (Years 2 & 3)
- Stage Band (four year only)

Many of these groups participate in competitive and non-competitive events during the year.

The following musical instruments are taught at Aspley State School

Recorder & Percussion from Year 3 in Classroom Music

Strings (*Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass*) from Year 3–6

Woodwind (*Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone*) from Year 4-6

Brass (*Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba*) from year 4-6

Percussion (*Snare & Bass Drum, Aux. Percussion, Xylophone*) – Year 4-6

Bass Guitar – Years 4-6

Please Note:

1. The school Instrumental Music Program is an optional program.
2. Instrumental tuition is free, however, students are encouraged to participate in the SRS Instrument Hire and General Instrumental Curriculum SRS. The SRS is a Student Resource Scheme and for those students not participating a list of required curriculum materials will be supplied to parents.

Loan Instruments

Some instruments are owned by Education Queensland (Aspley State School) and are loaned on a yearly basis as per the Student Resource Scheme. Some instruments are also owned by students within (or entering) the instrumental program. Recruitment is limited to the loan instruments available as well as the instruction time available. Loans are for a twelve-month period. Parents are expected to purchase an instrument after the loan has expired. Instruments on a twelve-month loan are flute, clarinet, trumpet, bass guitar, alto saxophone, violin and viola.

The EQ Loan Form appears in the Appendix Section. (Appendix 1)

Insurance advice: You are asked to add the instrument to your home and contents insurance while it is on loan to you. Education Queensland insurance only covers fire or break and enter incidents at school.

In the event of loss or damage to a school owned instrument, each event will be individually assessed. It is a possibility that a replacement instrument would be required to be purchased by the family to replace an instrument that is lost/stolen etc. if it is not insured.

Many hire/buy agreements are available through music retailers. Please see your child's instrumental instructor if you need advice about your purchase. (see appendix)

A loan agreement will be signed before the loan is complete. It is expected that your child will follow guidelines below:*

1. Do not loan the instrument or let other people play your instrument.
2. Notify the school as soon as a problem occurs with the instrument.
3. Maintain the instrument correctly during the loan period.

Selection Process

As stated in Education Queensland's Instrumental Guidelines, recruitment depends on available time for tuition, expansion of the program, size of the school and so forth.

In choosing students for the following year, the following processes are adhered to:

MUSICAL APTITUDE TEST – The Selmer aptitude test is given to all students applying for a position in the program. This tests chords, pitch, melody and rhythm. A score out of 60 is given.

LIAISON WITH CLASSROOM MUSIC TEACHER – The classroom music specialist gives a rating for lesson behaviour, attitude and musical ability.

LIAISON WITH CLASSROOM TEACHER

THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER – Will test for physical attributes, e.g. height of child, size and agility of fingers, whether child has/will get braces, whether child has an overbite, etc.

All information is collated and children are placed in groups of suited instruments. Cut-off must be made for a balanced instrumentation in the ensembles. Not all students can be accepted due to time allocation and maximum teaching numbers. However, students may be placed on a waiting list.

We try our best to suit the children to their chosen instrument but most of all we want your children to enjoy their musical experience at Aspley State School.

Ascertainment Process

Rationale

1. As many children as possible are to be given the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Music Program.
2. All children are to have an equal chance of being involved allowing for prior experience or a lack of experience.
3. With limited school instruments and instruction time, the process to ascertain the rank order of students to be offered school instruments and/or positions is to be thorough.
4. Children in the higher levels will be given the first preference so that a child may have the opportunity of being involved before leaving primary school. However, if attending only for Year 6, it may not be possible to start lessons.
5. In general, strings are started in Year 3 and other instruments in Year 4. Due to exceptional talent, a student may be given a position earlier if resources are available.
6. Children with their own instrument may be offered a lesson time if there is a vacancy. Suitability must be ascertained.
7. Children who are already playing an instrument when entering the school, will be given a position in the program if a vacancy exists.
8. If a vacancy occurs, the child next in the rank order is to be offered an instrument and/or a position in the class. Item 4 (above) applies.

Instrument Matching

Here are some things we consider when helping match an instrument for your child.

Flutes do better with;	Straight teeth, no overbite, medium to full lips, longer fingers, good distance from nose to top lip.
Clarinets do better with;	Feel/make a flat chin, no thin bottom lip, no protruding top teeth, longer fingers.
Saxophones do better with;	Same as clarinet but can have uneven teeth.
Trumpets do better with;	Straight and even teeth with no underbite, pointed chin, thin to medium lips.
Horns do better with;	Straight and even teeth, medium lips, good sense of pitch.
Low Brass do better with;	Large and rounded chin, even teeth, good distance from nose to top lip, bigger chest cavity, medium to full lips, arm length for trombone, longer torso for tuba.
Violins and Violas do better with;	Dominant right hand, good sense of pitch, thinner fingers.
Cellos and Double Bases do better with;	Dominant right hand, thicker fingers, good sense of pitch.

Expectations

Children in the instrumental program are required to become a member of the school-allocated ensemble when they have attained the necessary standards. Ensembles rehearse once a week and perform at school and community functions. Ensemble playing is a very important part of the musician's development, and is a requirement in the EQ Curriculum.

Your child may be required to perform at functions out of school hours and it is expected that they attend these functions, particularly leading up to events. You will be notified of all performances in writing, through the newsletter and the school website.

Any student missing from rehearsals or lessons may be excluded from upcoming performances, at the teacher's discretion. Missing three rehearsals before a performance will lead to this outcome.

The Aspley Instrumental Music Contract will be distributed to each student with all other necessary paperwork to be completed.

Student Commitment

I agree to:

1. Attend all lessons, rehearsals and performances on time.
2. Practise regularly, a minimum 30 minutes, five times a week.
3. Care for and maintain the instrument and replace accessories.
4. Bring the appropriate book, pencil, folder and instrument to all lessons, rehearsals and performances.
5. Assist with the setting up and packing up of ensemble equipment.

Parent Commitment

I agree to:

1. Support my child in his/her home practice.
2. Support my child in honouring this agreement.
3. Advise the school of my child's absences prior to lessons, rehearsals and performances.

I agree to follow all of the guidelines listed above. I understand enrolment is **for a minimum of one year** and that there is a Student Resource Scheme participation option. This is payable to the school office at the commencement of each year's enrolment in the instrumental music program.

Communication with the School

It is very important that Music Staff are well informed of absences and any problems occurring with their music tuition. Notice in writing must be given if your child will be absent from a performance or other event. Teachers are expected to follow up absences and prior notice assists their duties.

If your child is experiencing difficulties at any stage, the instrumental teachers are very happy to discuss this matter with you. Please call the school to make an appointment. The Principal, in conjunction with the Instrumental Music Teacher, may exclude students from tuition if they do not make steady progress either through lack of practice, attendance or aptitude or if they do not attend practices and functions, as required. In such cases, contact will be made with parents prior to such action. In most cases, solutions can be reached to ensure the best outcome for everybody concerned.



Choir

Experience in choral singing is available for children in years 2-6. Choir membership involves attendance at all rehearsals and performances throughout the year. A \$15 SRS fee applies to the choir.

Student Resource Scheme/Associated Costs

Each child is encouraged to participate in the SRS.

- a. General Instrumental Curriculum SRS of \$60
- b. School Instrument Hire of \$120 SRS.

These payments are non-refundable. If choosing to not participate in the SRS a list of materials for you to purchase separately will be provided.

Students are required/offered a variety of opportunities to participate in musical events such as Honours Music Camp, Band Blitz, Music Muster, Junior String Camp, Music Fest etc. With these musical activities come associated costs to participate.



The choir participation fee is \$15.

Practice

Children in the music program are expected to practise a minimum of 30 minutes, 5 times a week. The amount of work our teachers can accomplish during a lesson will depend on the work completed at home. Please encourage your child into a routine and provide a suitable space for their practice. A music stand is necessary for the development of good posture.

1. Find a place to play where you won't be disturbed.
2. Place your music on a music stand or in a position where you can play comfortably.
3. Start with something you can play well and enjoy. Practise some exercises for a few minutes. Now work on a new piece or the difficult piece from your last lesson.
4. Play the piece right through slowly. *When you come to a difficult bit stop – decide which notes are giving you trouble and practise them slowly over and over again. Don't play them faster until you can do them easily.*
5. Now work on a piece you know quite well but would like to know better. Listen critically to the sound you are making and try to play as beautifully as possible.
6. Reward yourself for your good work by ending with your favourite piece.

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE

Are you sure you know the notes?

Do you understand the timing?

Ask for help at your next lesson.

Lessons

Students are given a weekly lesson. Lessons for all instrumentalists will occur in the instrumental music room and will rotate on a weekly basis on an allocated day. Children will be issued with a lesson timetable and must become aware of their responsibilities in turning up on time. Rotation takes place to avoid regular missed lessons in any particular subject. Please note that changes may occur from time to time, due to internal school events and external factors. Children are advised to check notices before each week's lessons. Tuition is given in groups of between two and eight students. Due to the fact that the instrumental music teachers have several schools' programs to cover within each week (and due to rehearsal commitments) it is not possible for students to be taught outside school hours.

N.B.: Parents are asked to note that students must commit themselves for a full year's enrolment in the instrumental music program. Notices regarding continuation are sent home during Term 4. Finalisation of the enrolment before this time will involve negotiation with the instrumental teacher and principal.

Junior Band/Junior String Orchestra

The Junior Band forms in Term 2. The band will rehearse weekly and perform at all school functions. The band uniform is required for their first performance at the Semester 1 Music Evening.

A Junior String Orchestra or Ensemble is formed in Term 4 to allow first year string players the opportunity to perform at the end of year concert. Rehearsals are held within the school day (at present). Uniforms are not required by members of this group. The Junior String orchestra makes its debut at the Semester 2 Music Evening.



It is a curriculum requirement that students join our school ensembles.

Band, Orchestra & Choir Uniform

The music uniform consists of black trousers, white long-sleeved, button-up shirt, black shoes and black socks. The music vest is issued to band, senior choir and orchestra at every performance and returned immediately. Music uniforms are available for purchase through the Aspley Shop. Order forms will be distributed in Term 1.



We hope you enjoy your involvement with the Aspley State School Instrumental Program.

We aim to instil a life-long love of music in our students.

Stringed Instruments - What You Need to Purchase

ESSENTIAL items which need to be purchased by strings students are as follows (for students using both school instruments and their own instruments). Most items will last indefinitely and can be resold. Spare strings need to be replaced as they are used. Steel strings are most economical.

For Violin or Viola: (prices given are approximate and will vary)

- rosin - \$6 and up (depending on size/brand/quality – try not to spend more than \$20).
- 1 set of spare strings of correct size - \$19 to \$50+ approx. Please wait until your child is issued with an instrument before purchasing strings, so that the size is known.
- Shoulder Rest (of correct size) - up to \$50 (depending on quality and type). Less expensive brands are adequate for beginners. Everest, Hidersine, Fom, Kun and Willy Wolf brands are recommended for functionality, comfort and durability. School violins and violas will be issued with a shoulder rest (which must be returned at the end of the loan period).
- 2 cleaning cloths (clean rags will do)
- 1 thin exercise book or notebook (for handouts/instruction) 2 x 6B pencils
- Tuning device (as advised by teacher - \$6.95 to \$45.45 depending on type). This is not necessary for any student who has daily access to an electric keyboard or piano. Phone and tablet apps can also be used.
- Music stand for home practice and use at music camps in later years - \$23 approx.
- "String Basics", Book 1 for Violin (or Viola) by Woolstenhulme & Slade (\$19.95-\$23.95 approx.)

For 'Cello:

- Rosin – as for violin, but will cost a little more.
- 1 spare "A" string (of correct size) - \$19 approx. and up. Any student with his or her own instrument will require a full set (about \$80+). Please wait until your child is issued with an instrument before purchasing an A string, so that the size is known.
- 2 cleaning cloths (as for Violin/Viola)
- 1 thin exercise book or notebook (for handouts/instruction) 2 x 6B
- Tuning device (as for Violin/Viola)
- Music stand (as for Violin/Viola)
- "String Basics", Book 1 for 'Cello by Woolstenhulme & Slade (\$19.95-\$23.95 approx.)

For Double Bass:

- Rosin – as for violin, but will cost a little more.
- 1 set spare strings (of correct size) - \$160 approx. and up (and only required by a student using their own instrument; strings may be purchased individually when needed)
- 2 cleaning cloths (as for Violin/Viola)
- 1 thin exercise book or notebook (for handouts/instruction) 2 x 6B Pencils
- Tuning device (as for Violin/Viola)
- Music stand (as for Violin/Viola)
- "String Basics", Book 1 for Double Bass by Woolstenhulme & Slade (\$19.95-\$23.95 approx.)

Woodwind/Brass & Percussion - What you need to purchase (take this list to the music shop)

ALL STUDENTS REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BY WEEK 2 NEXT YEAR

<i>Flute</i>	<i>Clarinet</i>	<i>Bass Clarinet</i>
Essential Elements Bk 1 for Flute Cleaning Cloth (for the inside of the instrument – this can be a clean, blue chux cloth) Folding Music Stand	Essential Elements Bk 1 for Clarinet 5 x <u>Size 2</u> Clarinet Reeds Cork Grease Pull Through Reed Guard (2 or 4) Folding Music Stand	Essential Elements Bk 1 for Bass Clarinet 5 x <u>Size 2</u> Clarinet Reeds Pull Through Reed Guard (2 or 4) Folding Music Stand
<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Tenor Saxophone</i>	<i>Trumpet, Euphonium & Tuba</i>
Essential Elements Bk 1 for Alto Saxophone 5 x <u>Size 2</u> Alto Saxophone Reeds Pull Through Cork Grease Reed Guard (2 or 4) Folding Music Stand	Essential Elements Bk 1 for Tenor Saxophone 5 x <u>Size 2</u> Tenor Saxophone Reeds Pull Through Cork Grease Reed Guard (2 or 4) Folding Music Stand	Essential Elements Bk 1 for Trumpet, Tuba or Baritone B.C 1 bottle Al Cass Valve Oil Slide Grease Folding Music Stand
<i>Horn</i>	<i>Trombone</i>	<i>Percussion</i>
Essential Elements Bk 1 for Horn 1 bottle Rotor Oil Slide Grease Folding Music Stand	Essential Elements Bk 1 for Trombone Slide Cream Tuning Slide Cream Folding Music Stand	Essential Elements Bk 1 for Percussion One pair 5A sticks Drum Pad (for home only) Folding Music Stand
<i>Bass Guitar</i>		
Essential Elements Bk 1 for Bass Guitar Bass Guitar lead (min. 3 metre) Folding Music Stand Bass Guitar Tuner		

MUSIC SUPPLIERS

Woodswind and Brass (Instrument Hire and repairs)

North Lakes, 1300378452

Arties Music

Aspley Hypermarket

Morris Brothers Music

Billabong Street, Stafford

Simply for Strings

Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill, 3368 3666

Animato Strings

Kingsford Smith Drive, Eagle Farm, 1300 739777

Brass Music Specialists

Graceville, 3278 1311

Other Music Australia (online shop)

0488 668 742

othermusic.com.au



EQ11 External Request for Equipment is to be completed when loaning Department of Education, Training and the Arts equipment to employees, students or community organisations for use after hours, during school holidays on, or away, from official premises.

DETAILS OF REQUISITIONER / PERSON TO WHOM EQUIPMENT IS ON LOAN

Organisation	ASPLEY STATE SCHOOL	Address; Horn Road ASPLEY, 4034	Telephone: 38639111
Student:			
Year Level:			
Location and Use of Equipment (STUDENT ADDRESS)			
Reason for Request - Student loan for use in the Aspley State School Instrumental Music Program			

DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT ON LOAN

Description / Type:		Brand:	
Serial Number		Asset Number	
Accessories: (if applicable)		For ICT equipment, Build Standard: (e.g. MOE; 1.X/SOE)	
Commencement loan date:		Expected date of return:	Date returned:
Officer receiving returned equipment	Name:	Signature:	

INDEMNITY

Fair wear and tear excepted, and for the duration of this transfer, I/we agree to indemnify Education Queensland against loss or damage from any cause whatsoever, to the equipment detailed herein and, in the event of damage to restore and deliver such equipment to Education Queensland, in the condition in which it was received, or to replace the damaged equipment with other equipment of equivalent functionality.

Signature _____ **Date** ___ / ___ / ___ (Teacher to sign)

APPROVAL FOR LOAN

I authorise the loan of the equipment to the parent/guardian for, and on behalf of, the student.
(Cross out "to the parent/guardian and onstudent" if equipment is not being loaned to a student.)

Signature of School Approving Officer: _____ (Teacher to sign)

Name:	Designation; Inst Music Teacher	Date: / /
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