

ASPLEY State School



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND CHORAL HANDBOOK



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, Choral Director and Program Coordinator

Ms Christine Jabs – Instrumental Teacher (Woodwind / Brass / Percussion)

Miss Ashleigh Abul – Instrumental Teacher (Strings)

Our school has many ensembles and choirs:

- Senior Concert Band
- Junior Concert Band
- Stage Band
- Senior Choir (Year 4-6)
- Junior Choir (Years 2 & 3)
- Senior String Ensemble
- Intermediate String Ensemble
- Beginner String Ensemble
- Chamber Strings (Year 5/6)

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

Instrumental Music Program

The following musical instruments are taught at Aspley State School:

<u>Recorder & Percussion</u>	Percussion at the commencement of schooling in Prep through to Year 6 and Recorder from Year 3 in Classroom Music
<u>Strings</u>	(Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) from Year 3 –6
<u>Woodwind</u>	(Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone) from Year 4-6
<u>Brass</u>	(Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba) from Year 4-6
<u>Percussion</u>	(Snare & Bass Drum, Aux. Percussion, Xylophone) – Year 4-6
<u>Bass Guitar</u>	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, General Instrumental Curriculum SRS and Choral 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.

Loans for flute, clarinet, trumpet, bass guitar, alto saxophone, violin and viola are for a twelve-month period. Parents are expected to purchase an instrument after the loan has expired.

Other instruments are outside this 12-month loan period:

- Trombone - 2 years
- Tuba, French Horn, Euphonium, Baritone – 3 years
- Cello - 3 years
- Double Bass – 4 years

Double bass students also have an arrangement of one double bass loaned (to be kept at home), and another used at school for lessons. This assists with the transportation of a large instrument (please note that though the student has access to two instruments, a single loan fee will apply in this instance (for the bass at home only).

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.

Where a hired item is lost, not returned, or damaged, the school may, at the principal's discretion, charge or require the parent/carer to repair or replace the item. The replacement cost of any resource may be up to the maximum value of the acquisition cost to the school.

Many hire/buy agreements are available through music retailers (Appendix 4). Please see your child's instrumental instructor if you need advice about your purchase.

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 DASE aptitude test is administered to students applying for a position in the program. This tests pitch, melody and rhythm. A score out of 25 is given.

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

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, double jointedness, etc.

All information is collated, and children are placed in groups of suited instruments. Cut-offs must be made for a balanced instrumentation in 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

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 commence lessons.
5. In general, strings are started in Year 3 and all 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.

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, as it allows students to consolidate and apply content learned in lessons. It is also a requirement in the EQ Curriculum.

Your child may be required to perform at functions out of school hours. It is expected that they attend these functions and rehearsals 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, 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 prior to your child commencing in the instrumental music program by the due date nominated by the school.

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:	Good sense of pitch, thinner fingers, and ability to process high pitched sounds.
Cellos and Double Bases do better with:	Strong wrists, large hand span, and ability to discern pitch lower than their voice range.

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.

Student Resource Scheme/Associated Costs

Instrumental Music:

Each child is encouraged to participate in the SRS.

- a. General Instrumental Curriculum SRS of \$70.00
- b. School Instrument Hire of \$130.00 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.

If payment presents a financial challenge, please contact our Business Manager to discuss alternative arrangements.

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.
7. Listen to a recording of the piece you are playing to gain a better understanding.

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 rooms 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 of school hours. **Please note missed lessons will not be rescheduled or made up.**

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 3. Finalisation of the enrolment before this time will involve negotiation with the Instrumental Teacher and Principal.

Junior Band/Junior String Ensemble

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.

The Intermediate String Ensemble forms midway through Term 1. The Intermediate String Ensemble will rehearse weekly and perform at school functions. The Intermediate String Ensemble are required to wear the music performance uniform for their first performance at the Semester 1 Music Evening.

The Beginner String Ensemble is formed in Term 4 to allow first year string players the opportunity to perform at the end of year music concert. Rehearsals are held within the school day (at present). Music Performance Uniforms are **not** required to be worn by members of this ensemble. The Beginner String Ensemble makes its debut at the Semester 2 Music Evening.

All senior ensembles commence in Week 3 of Term 1.

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 Senior Concert Band, Senior Choir and the Intermediate/Senior String Ensembles/Chamber Strings 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.

Choral Program

Aspley State School continues its strong choral tradition under the direction of Mrs McIntyre, who is committed to maintaining a high standard of choral excellence with the following ensembles:

- **Junior Choir** – Open to students in **Years 2 and 3** (boys and girls)
- **Senior Choir** – Open to students in **Years 4, 5, and 6** (boys and girls)

Selection Process

Students in Years 2 to 6 are invited to join the Choral Program at the start of each school year.

A trial rehearsal for both the Junior and Senior Choirs is held during Weeks 3 and 4. Students who participate in this trial rehearsal and have expressed an interest in joining the choral program will be invited to enrol in the program.

To confirm a position in either choir, parents/caregivers will complete a Letter of Participation / Choral Contract.

Commitment and Participation

To participate in the Choral Program, each student must agree to the guidelines outlined in the Choral Contract. This ensures a commitment to the ensemble and its performances. We encourage you to review this contract with your child before completing the enrolment form.

Student commitment:

- To enrol for a period of one year.
- To attend **all** practices/rehearsals.
- To be responsible for any choral repertoire given to me.
- To show commitment and positive attitudes towards choral ensemble rehearsals and performances.
- To attend all performances.
- To wear choir performance uniform when required.
- To display appropriate manners/conduct and behave appropriately at all times and represent my school with pride.
- Practice regularly to learn lyrics, choreography and part-work.

Rehearsal

Each choir will rehearse at least once a week during first break. The rehearsal day will be confirmed at the start of the school year.

Frequency of rehearsals may increase before performance dates.

Communication with the School

It is very important that Mrs McIntyre is well informed of absences and any concerns.

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. Please be aware that if a student misses 3 or more choral rehearsals without notification of reasons why, an email will be sent to parents to confirm absences. Students must demonstrate a commitment to the choral program to be able to participate in performances.

If your child is experiencing difficulties at any stage, Mrs McIntyre is very happy to discuss this matter with you. Please call the school to make an appointment. The Principal, in conjunction with Mrs McIntyre, may exclude students from choir 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.

Student Resource Scheme/Associated Costs

A **one-time, non-refundable payment** is required to support the costs associated with the program:

- **\$10.00 for Junior Choristers**
- **\$20.00 for Senior Choristers** (includes SingFest repertoire)

The program fee helps cover:

- Licensing and purchasing of choral repertoire
- Photocopying of music and lyric sheets
- Acquisition of vocal and accompaniment backing tracks
- Annual tuning of upright pianos used for rehearsals
- Accompanist fees (as required)
- Maintenance of choir folders and stationery

SingFest (Senior Choir Only)

The **Senior Choir fee includes the cost of SingFest repertoire**. SingFest is an annual massed choral event for state school students in Years 4–6, organized by the Metropolitan Region Music Resource Centre. This event provides students with the opportunity to rehearse and perform pre-selected choral pieces alongside over 1,500 other young vocalists from across the region. It is a fantastic experience for our Senior Choir members.

Performance Uniform

All Junior and Senior Choir members must wear the **Aspley Performance Uniform** at all events:

- **Long black dress pants**
- **Long-sleeved white dress shirt**
- **Black socks**
- **Black shoes**

Uniforms can be purchased through the **Aspley Uniform Shop**. Order forms will be distributed to participating families during Term One.





**External Request for Equipment -
Student
EDQUIP EQ11**

EQ11 External Request for Equipment - Student is to be completed when loaning Department of Education equipment to for use after hours, during school holidays on, or away, from official premises.

DETAILS OF REQUISITIONER / PERSON TO WHOM EQUIPMENT IS ON LOAN

First Name	Address	Telephone:
Surname		
Student, Year Level:		
Location and Use of Equipment (if different from above)		
Reason for Request		

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 the Department of Education 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 the Department of Education, in the condition in which it was received, or to replace the damaged equipment with other equipment of equivalent functionality.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

APPROVAL FOR LOAN

I authorise the loan of the equipment to the parent/guardian for, and on behalf of, the student.

Signature of School Approving Officer: _____

Name: _____ Designation: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Stringed Instruments - What You Need to Purchase **(Beginner Students)**

ESSENTIAL items which need to be purchased by strings students for both school instruments and their own instruments.

<u>Violin or Viola</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Basics Book 1 • Shoulder rest – Fom Kun style – please note to buy the correct size • String Set – <i>recommended brands include Prelude, Ascente, Piranito</i> • Rosin • Folding music stand • Microfibre cloth • 2B pencil 	<u>Cello</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Basics Book 1 • A & D string – <i>recommended brands include Prelude, Ascente, Piranito</i> • Rock stop • Rosin • Folding music stand • Microfibre cloth • 2B pencil
<u>Double Bass</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String Basics Book 1 • Rosin • Rockstop • Folding music stand • Microfibre cloth • 2B pencil 	

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>
Learn as You Play Book 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		

MUSIC SUPPLIERS

Woodswind and Brass (Instrument Hire and repairs)

North Lakes, 1300378452

Arties Music

Aspley Hypermarket, 3263 7966

Brass Music Specialists

Graceville, 3278 1311

Other Music Australia (online shop)

0488 668 742

othermusic.com.au

Just Percussion

Bowen Hills

1300 576 874

Simply for Strings

Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill, 3368 3666

Animato Strings

Kingsford Smith Drive, Eagle Farm, 1300 739777

Vivace Music

Underwood (3090 4268)

Sunnybank (3344 1880)

Please quote the SOA number (QED109450) in order to receive the pricing/discounts under the Education Queensland SOA.