



**St Joseph's**  
**Primary School**

*Kangaroo Point*



**MUSIC HANDBOOK**  
for  
**Parents and Students**





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## WELCOME AND WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

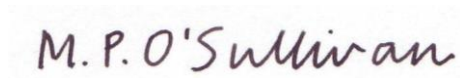
### Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program!

Here at St Joseph's, we offer the opportunity for your child to learn and create music via our vibrant Instrumental Music Program. Through a combination of band, small group and individual lessons, students will receive a quality music education that caters to their specific learning needs and interests. Equipping students with the fundamentals of instrumental music making, they develop deeper understanding and appreciation for the arts.

Music is a gift for life: an intangible medium enjoyed by children and adults of all ages.

I invite you to join with us in giving the gift of music to your children, as offered by the St Joseph's Instrumental Music Program.

Wishing your child every success in the Instrumental Music Program.



*Micheal O'Sullivan*  
**Principal**

## WELCOME AND WORDS FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC

Welcome to the St Joseph's Instrumental Music Program! Studying a musical instrument is a highly enjoyable and rewarding experience and the benefits that a musical education can provide for your child are endless. A child studying a musical instrument will be given many opportunities to foster and develop an array of significant cognitive and life skills/understandings. Many of these skills and understandings are transferable to other learning dimensions and as a result, your child's collective educational experience can become a more balanced and enriched experience.

I invite you and your child to become enthusiastic participants in the St Joseph's Instrumental Music Program and I look forward to working with you in continuing to develop your child's musical skills.

Music Teachers are:

- Stephanie Linsdell* Strings/Piano
- Cathy Anderson* Woodwind
- Keeyana Babsek* Piano
- Richard Daniell* Percussion/Drum Kit
- Jack Richardson* Guitar
- Alex McPherson* Cello
- Ho Ching Leung* Strings
- Janette Kircher* Piano/Keyboard/Voice

*Stephanie Linsdell*  
**Head of Music**

## RATIONALE & AIMS

Music is one part of the total education of a child. The Instrumental Music Program is an extension of the Classroom Music Program and provides children with the opportunity to experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band instrument. Through Music Education, the students are led to an awareness of music and an appreciation of the part music plays in their own lives and in the lives of others.

The aims of the Instrumental Music Program at St Joseph's Primary School are:

- To have fun learning music in an enjoyable environment.
- To provide an opportunity for the musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group and individual basis.
- To provide ensemble experience for these students so that they develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their Music Education.
- To encourage further development of team work, co-operation, organisation, responsibility and commitment, as well as positive peer relationships in a fun and enjoyable environment; and
- To foster an appreciation of a variety of music styles and genres

## INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL

A wide variety of instruments from the four main instrument families: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Electric/Acoustic Strings, and Piano are taught here at the school.

These instruments include:

<p><b>WOODWIND</b> Flute Bb Clarinet Alto Saxophone</p>	<p><b>PERCUSSION</b> Tuned Percussion (Glockenspiel) Un-tuned Percussion (Snare/Bass Drum/Cymbals)</p>
<p><b>STRINGS</b> Violin Viola Cello Double Bass (upper grades only)</p>	<p><b>GUITARS</b> Electric/Acoustic Guitar Bass Guitar</p> <p><b>PIANO</b> Piano/Keyboard Voice</p>

## WHAT IS TAUGHT AND ASSESSED

The Instrumental Music Curriculum taught at our school is that which is adopted by all Catholic primary schools in Queensland. A copy of this syllabus is available to download at [http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/resources/Shape\\_of\\_the\\_Australian\\_Curriculum\\_The\\_Arts\\_-\\_Compressed.pdf](http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/resources/Shape_of_the_Australian_Curriculum_The_Arts_-_Compressed.pdf) Our curriculum centres on the basic components of the process of learning to play an instrument, which have been organised into eleven areas of learning and skill development. These include:

- *The Instrument*
- *Terms & Symbols*
- *Playing Posture*
- *Rhythmic & Melodic Perception*
- *Tone*
- *Improvisation & Composition*
- *Pitch Repertoire*
- *Sight Reading*
- *Tuning and Intonation*
- *Performance*
- *Articulation*



Our Curriculum continues to develop each of these areas across Five Levels of Playing Standards. In Primary School, most students progress to a Level Two playing standard. As there is no set timeline, the aim of all music teachers is for students to strive to achieve a Level Five playing standard by the time they graduate from high school.

Each student receives one half-hour individual and/or group lesson and one thirty minute ensemble rehearsal on a weekly basis. Once a student reaches the required playing standard, it is compulsory for them to join the appropriate ensemble. This ensures that all students have the opportunity to play in an ensemble appropriate to their playing standard and we as a school have the privilege of working with complete bands, i.e. where all the required instruments taught at the school are played by students in each ensemble.

To assist us in teaching a variety of different instruments in a group setting, we use a method book to facilitate effective teaching of the curriculum. Depending on your child's teacher, the method book that will be taught at St Joseph's is:

- Standard of Excellence – all Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Electric Stringed Instruments, e.g. Band Instruments
- Essential Elements 2000 – Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) OR
- Strictly Strings - Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass)

- Essential Elements Book 1/Hal Leonard Guitar Method Book 2 - Guitar
- Alfred's Basic Piano Library
- A.M.E.B. Piano
- Encore on Keys – Piano or Keyboard

**It is compulsory for students to purchase their method books before commencing Instrumental Music Lessons at the school.** Students requiring extension or who undertake individual lessons will also be given the opportunity to learn and sit examinations for Australian Music Examinations Board (A.M.E.B.) syllabus.

An individual report card for each student currently studying an instrument is issued to parents/carers: two report cards are issued per year.

In addition, students are informally assessed at the end of each lesson in regards to their progress, attendance, and behaviour. If any problems or concerns arise, the school will contact the parents/carers. Likewise, we also encourage parents/carers and students to contact the Music Specialist Teacher with any problems or concerns they may have in relation to a student learning their instrument, and home practice.

## **EXPECTATIONS & COMMITMENT FROM STUDENTS & PARENTS/CARERS**

Once a student has been selected, and has joined the program there will be new responsibilities and some expectations placed upon them and the family.

### **Responsibilities include:**

- Knowing lessons times each week (*check music timetables*);
- Bringing all equipment to each lesson (*instrument, book, etc*);
- Caring for the instrument and keeping it safe (*respect property*); and
- Notifying the instrumental teacher if a loan instrument needs repairs immediately (*Please do not attempt **ANY** repairs yourself*).

### **Expectations include:**

- Punctually attending all lessons unless absent from school;
- Punctually attending all rehearsals;
- Punctually attending all performances; and
- Committing to the program for the minimum of a full school term. (on average 9 lessons)
- Regular home practice. Minimum 3-4 times per week.

### **Parent/Carer expectations include:**

- Providing the student with his/her own instrument.
- Providing a suitable practice area and time for the student;
- Providing encouragement and positive reinforcement of the student's progress;
- Assisting the student to meet his/her responsibilities (as above);

### **Absences from Lessons and Rehearsals:**

- **Parents are required to email the Head of Music, Stephanie Linsdell, [slinsdell@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:slinsdell@bne.catholic.edu.au) and instrumental teacher prior to 8 am on the morning of the lesson, otherwise no make-up lesson will be given. No make up lessons will be made for students who are absent during the term for family holidays.**
- In-person visits from parents during their children's lessons are encouraged. Phone calls and emails are also welcomed to discuss your child's progress. You can contact your child's teacher via the school phone number (3391 5397)

### **Leaving the Instrumental Music Program:**

- A student must have an exceptional reason for breaking his/her commitment to the program;
- Parents/Carers need to personally contact the Music Specialist Teacher in order to resolve ALL issues.
- **If a student leaves the program mid-term, no refunds will be given.**
- **Three weeks prior notice to the end of term is required for the cessation of lessons.**



### **Suspension and Exclusion from the Instrumental Music Program:**

- It is a privilege for a student to be involved in the Instrumental Music Program, as it is an extra-curricular activity beyond the classroom;
- The school holds the right to exclude any student from participation when circumstances effect the learning of themselves or their peers in either Instrumental Music lessons or the normal class situation;
- The school holds the right to suspend or exclude students from participation in the program if their school fees and/or band fees are not up to date. A break down of costs for hire instruments can be sourced at the school office;
- Exclusion only occurs in consultation with the Principal and when all other avenues to resolve the circumstances have been unsuccessful.



# SUPPLYING YOUR STUDENT WITH AN INSTRUMENT

## The First Year

St Joseph's has a small collection of larger instruments that are loaned to selected students at various stages in the program. The Music Specialist Teacher will select students accordingly to take up a loan instrument, which will often be to complement that part of their major study. For example, if your child plays the clarinet they may also have the opportunity to play the bass clarinet. At the time of your acceptance into the program, the school will advise you if your son/daughter has been selected to play a loan instrument. Other offers will be made at any time as instruments become available.

Students accepted into the program but not offered a school instrument due to the limited availability need to supply their own instrument before they commence tuition.

These can be bought or hired from music stores (refer to the list of Recommended Music Stores on Page 15). All students are required to purchase all other necessary items. It is advisable to check with the Music Specialist Teacher before purchasing an instrument located through the paper or a private sale.



## The Following Years

As mentioned above, students are presented with the opportunity to take up a second instrument (when they reach an advanced level of playing on their first), which is designed to compliment the playing ability on their first. To facilitate the development of our ensembles, offers will be made at appropriate times for these instruments as they become available.

## Tips for Locating a Suitable Instrument

- Consult the Music Specialist Teacher for advice and information on which brands to look for and average prices.
- Consider all options before deciding on the one that is best for you: rental, purchase plans, buying a pre-loved instrument, borrowing an instrument from someone you know.
- Keep the Music Specialist Teacher informed: bring them the instrument, ask them to look at it with you, play it for you, etc.
- Shop Around! Ask all shops why you should go to them and what deals and extras can they offer you others cannot!

## TYPES OF INSTRUCTION

Here at St Joseph's, we offer three types of music instruction to students:

### Group Lessons

Students participating in group lessons (ie. violin, percussion) receive one half-hour weekly lesson in school time and with a small group of students who play similar instruments. Due to the fun and social nature of group lessons, they are strongly recommended for students in Prep to Year 3 as they make learning fun and less daunting. **Please be aware that students who miss a lesson will not have this lesson made up and the cost of the lesson will not be refunded.**

### Individual Lessons

All students keen to accelerate their learning on their chosen instrument are recommended to take half-hour weekly individual lessons at the school. The Instrumental Music Instructor negotiates with the parents/caregivers of each student to create an Individual Education Program. This curricular designed specifically for each student meets his or her particular learning needs and interests, facilitating the rapid development of a student's expertise on their instrument. A.M.E.B. instruction is available for students wishing to complete examinations. Please note that there is a waiting list for Individual Lessons and that those who are at the top of this list will be offered an Individual Lesson first.

**Missed private lessons are only offered make up lessons if notice has been given to the teacher by 8 am on the day of the lesson.**

### Sr Mary Justine Choir

These choirs are open to students from Years 3 to 6. Rehearsals are held at lunchtime. The choirs perform at the Queensland Catholic School Music Festival, community events, nursing home visits and the school open day.



## ENSEMBLES



### **String (Ensemble) Rehearsals**

As it is crucial to the development of young instrumentalists, all students are required to attend a minimum of one weekly rehearsal. These usually commence after one term of individual lessons.

### **Sr Ursula Quartet**

This Quartet (4 students) is comprised of a small group of students nominated by their music teacher. The Sr Ursula Quartet performs both inside and outside the school across the year. Students play in unison as well as part playing.

### **Sr Mary Ancilla String Ensemble**

This is the school's junior string ensemble. Students are invited to join this ensemble once they have demonstrated the ability to play the D major scale on their string instruments and are able to play most of the repertoire in their first tutor books. In this ensemble, students learn the basics of how to play as a unified ensemble such as playing in tune and in time with each other. The repertoire covered by this ensemble involves playing in unison as well as simple part playing. This ensemble often performs at school concerts and events and the Queensland Catholic Music Festival. Students in this ensemble have the opportunity to work with the concert master of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra twice a year under the QSO School Partnerships Program.

### **Sr Mary Regina String Ensemble**

This is the school's senior string ensemble. Students are invited to join this ensemble when they demonstrate the ability to play the D major, G major, A major and C major scales because the repertoire explored by this ensemble will have a wider range of keys. Students must also demonstrate the ability to play in parts as an ensemble. Students who are in this ensemble are required to take private music tuition on their instrument (in school, or outside school). This ensemble often performs at school concerts and events, the Queensland Catholic Music Festival, and are occasionally invited to perform at outside school events. Students in this ensemble have the opportunity to work with the concert master of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra twice a year under the QSO School Partnerships Program.

## COSTS

In addition to lesson and group costs, there are some additional costs, which occur throughout the year. For example:

- Reeds & other ongoing requirements for respective instruments
- \$100 per term hire fee for school instruments (to cover the cost of end-of-year services)
- Regular servicing of own instrument as required
- Compulsory music books, particularly for Individual Lessons
- Various stationary including pencils & erasers
- Entrance fees for spectators at competitions for Parents/Carers

### Basic Costs

Type of Instruction	Cost
Individual Lessons	\$25 for 20 minute per weekly lesson (drums only) \$37 for 30 minutes per weekly lesson \$55 for 45 minute per weekly lesson \$64 for 60 minutes per weekly lesson
Group Lessons	\$27 per weekly group lesson

The above fees are invoiced based on a term rate. Please keep in mind that some terms may be shorter or longer than 10 weeks. There are no lessons in the last week of term. This is the week that private lessons are made up, if notification was originally given. If a term is 10 weeks long, families are charged for 9 lessons.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUMENTS

Following is a helpful list of required accessories students need to learn music. Just as a car needs petrol, oil, water, and regular servicing, so do musical instruments to help them stay in good working order. Purchasing the items specific to the instrument your child is learning will assist them in achieving their full potential as an instrumentalist.

### General Requirements for All Instruments

<b>Instrument</b> (School loan instrument or own instrument)	<b>Stationery:</b> Pencil, Eraser, 1 A4 Music Manuscript Book, and 1 Exercise Book for Homework
<b>Method Book:</b> As advised by the teacher.	<b>Music Stand</b> (For home practice) <b>Theory of Music Book</b> (if required) (Dulcie Holland Master Your Theory Book) Grading of book to be decided on during lesson time
<b>Specific Accessories for your instrument</b> (See below)	<b>Band/Ensemble Music Folder</b> (Supplied by the school)

## COSTS

### Flute

- Small Cleaning Cloth
- Polishing Cloth
- Cleaning Rod

### Clarinet

- Padded Neck Strap (for younger students)
- Cleaning Swab/Pull-Through
- Reeds (Beginners: 4 x size 1 ½ Rico Reeds)
- Cleaning Cloth
- Thumb Rest (Optional)
- Reed Guard (Highly Recommended)
- Mouthpiece Brush (Optional)

### Saxophone

- Padded Neck Strap (for younger students)
- Cleaning Swab/Pull-Through
- Reeds (Beginners: 4 x size 1 ½ Rico Reeds)
- Cleaning Cloth
- Thumb Rest (Optional)
- Reed Guard (Highly Recommended)
- Mouthpiece Bush (Optional)

### Violin

- ½ or ¾ violin as recommended
- Good Quality Rosin
- Spare set of Strings

### Percussion

- 1 pair of Drum Sticks size 5A
- 1 Remo Practice Pad
- 1 pair of Glockenspiel mallets
- 1 Glockenspiel and Bag (2<sup>nd</sup> term of learning)

### Electric & Bass Guitar

- Guitar Lead (Good quality)
- Neck Strap
- Practice Amplifier (suited to Guitar type)
- Practice Tuner
- Picks 3x Hard Plastic (Electric only)
- Additional Book

### Piano & Keyboard

- Keyboard of Piano at Home
- All General Requirements



## **STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS**

Encourage children not to just practise but also encourage them to play. This relates not just to children beginning to play an instrument but also to students continuing to play through to Year 6 and beyond.

Playing an instrument in a room behind closed doors can be a very lonely experience. A little encouragement can go a long way to helping them to enjoy and achieve well with their instrument. Try one, some, or all of these ideas and add any that other parents may suggest:

- Have your child play near you so you can hear and enjoy their practice, maybe not every day but every so often.
- Even sit down with a book or just sit and listen.
- Praise their sounds (especially the good ones) often.
- Make a comment about the progress you notice.
- Show pride in their achievements and let them overhear you talking about them.
- Ask them to play for guests at home (they may not want to but sometimes just being asked means a lot to them).
- Notice difficult sections and ask how they are played.
- Comment on the piece of music – interesting melody, rhythm, changed sections.
- Set a practise routine. This is particularly important if your child or the household are involved in other activities outside of school.
- Don't nag or push your child to practise – it can become very stressful for both of you. If you are finding it difficult to get your child to practise, please come and talk to your Music Specialist Teacher.

## **HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL MUSIC PRACTICE**

- Always practice with your music on a music stand.
- Try to practice at least 15-20 minutes four to five times per week.
- Aim to gradually increase your practice time to 30 minutes each day over the first year.
- Start and finish your practice with a piece you can play well and enjoy.

### **Tips for working on difficult pieces of music:**

- a) Play the piece right through slowly.
- b) Start at the beginning again, and when you come to a difficult part, stop -decide which notes are giving you trouble and practice them SLOWLY over and over again. Don't play them faster until you can play them easily.
- c) Do the same with any other difficult bits in the piece.
- d) Play the whole piece again slowly.

Gradually increase the speed until you can play the whole piece through at the proper speed.

- Reward yourself for good work in your practice time by finishing with your favourite piece of music.
- Keep a record of your own practice -don't forget to be honest!

## If you are having trouble practicing...

Are you sure you **know** the notes?

Do you understand the timing and counting?

If you are still having trouble, ask your Music Specialist Teacher for help at your next lesson.

## PERFORMANCE UNIFORM

The band uniforms are worn to all competitions and public performances by our school bands and other groups.

The band/ensemble uniforms at present are the school dress uniform which is:

GIRL'S UNIFORM	BOY'S UNIFORM
Tartan Dress	Boys Formal Green Shirt
Black leather school shoes	Black school shorts
Green socks	Black leather shoes
Bottle green hair accessories	Green socks



## MUSIC SHOPS RECOMMENDED BY THE SCHOOL

The following Music Shops are recommended and endorsed by St Joseph's. Please support them as they provide quality service and instruments at great student prices.

*Unless mentioned in the title, all of the following stores supply instruments and accessories for Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Guitars/Strings:*

### **Ellaways Music**

39-45 Compton Rd  
Underwood  
Phone: 3290 5656

### **Better Sounds**

661 Ipswich Road  
Annerley  
Phone: 33929100

### **Ellaways Music**

315 & 337 Gympie Road  
Kedron  
Phone: 3359 8266

### **Music Express**

2048 Logan Rd  
Upper Mt Gravatt (Opposite Garden City)  
Phone: 3849 7088

### **Animato**

789 Kingsfordsmith Drive  
Cnr Links Avenue Eagle Farm  
Phone: 1300 739 777

### **Morris Brothers**

Shop1, 17 Billabong Street &  
Webster Road  
Stafford  
Phone: 3356-3299

### **Simply for Strings**

78 Enoggera Terrace  
Red Hill  
Phone: 1300 739 293

### **Drummers Warehouse**

14 Brookes Street  
Bowen Hills  
Phone: 3252-1232

### **The Guitar Centre**

915 Stanley St East  
East Brisbane  
Phone: 3392 3821

### **John Masson's Music Centre**

1513 Logan Road  
Mount Gravatt  
Phone: 3349-2006

### **John Simmers Violin**

20 Argyle Street  
Red Hill  
Phone: 3368 3866

### **Ilja Grawert**

20 Logan Road  
Woolloongabba  
Phone: 1800 882 468





