



St Joseph's
Primary School

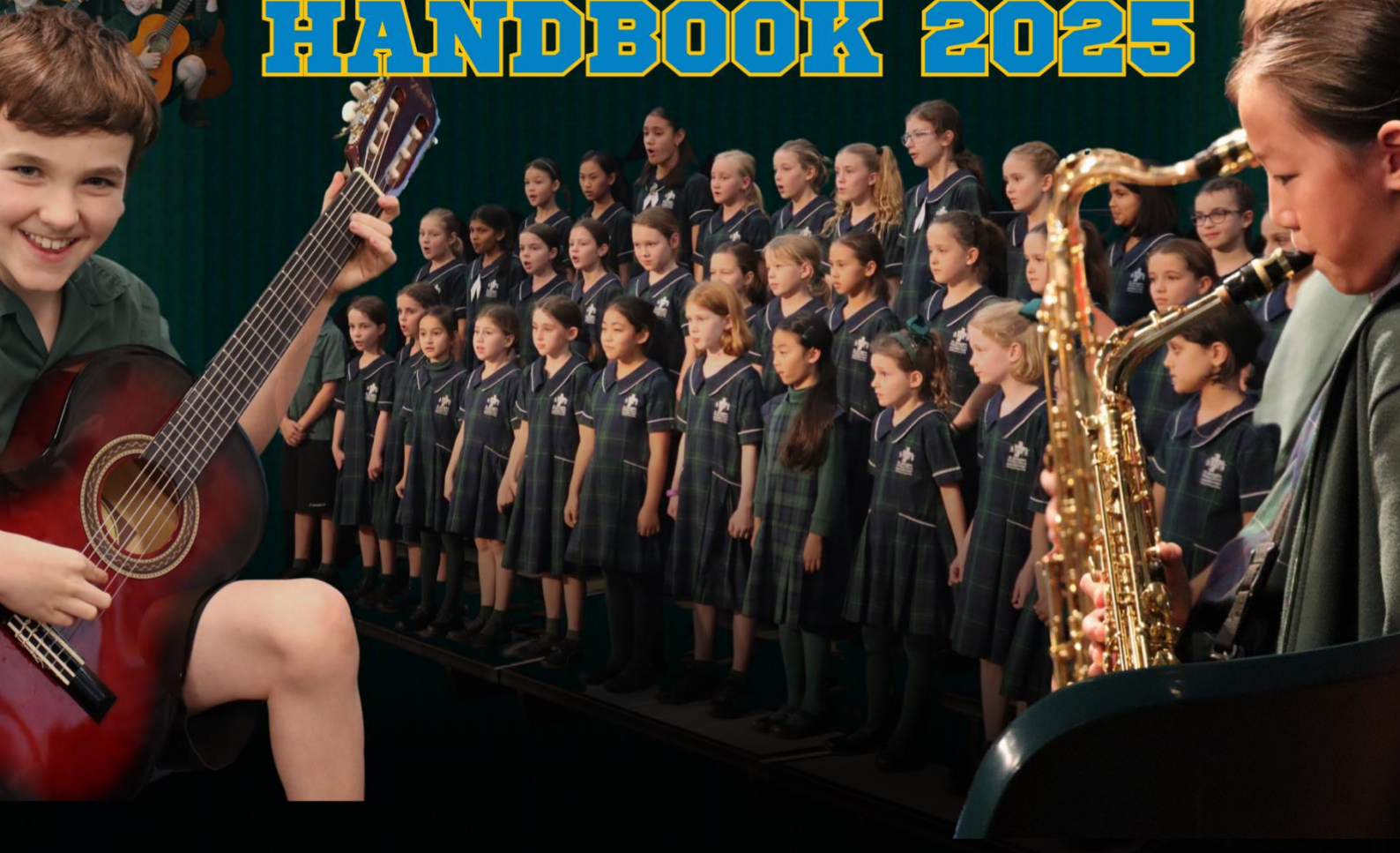
Kangaroo Point

PERFORMING ARTS



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

HANDBOOK 2025





St Joseph's
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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 ensemble, small group and individual lessons, students will receive a quality music education that caters to their specific learning needs and interests. By equipping students with the fundamentals of instrumental music making, they develop a 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.

Nicole Cole

School Principal

Welcome And Words From The Director Of Music

Educating children in the world of music is a privilege, and we are some of the lucky few who have devoted our lives doing just that. Our team is full of wonderfully dedicated musicians and educators that love working with your child to bring out the best in them; both musically and wholistically. I can't wait to welcome you to the instrumental music program in 2024 and to hear what amazing sounds your child can make!

Alex Prendeckij

Director of Music



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Meet The Team



Alex Predeckij

Director of Music/Guitar
Specialist
BMus



Louise Osborne

Piano Specialist
AMus, LMus



Christina Nichols

Vocal & Piano Specialist
BMus, DipEd



Richard Daniell

Percussion & Drumkit
Specialist
BMus



Evan Osborne

Brass & Woodwind
Specialist
BMus



Daria Van Ryt

Piano Specialist
BMus

Aidan Arnold

String & Bass Specialist
BMus



Laura Mulcahy

Vocal & Piano
Specialist
BMus (Hon)



Will Murphy

Guitar Specialist
DipMus



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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 an instrument.

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

- To have fun learning music in an enjoyable environment.
- To develop performance skills as an integral part of their music education.
- To encourage further development of teamwork, 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 on Offer at St Joseph's Primary School

Instrument Group

List of Instruments

Brass

Trumpet, Baritone, Trombone,

Woodwind

Flute, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

Strings

Violin, Viola, Cello

Guitar

Classical Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele

Percussion

Drumkit

Piano

Voice



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Lesson Overview

When students enrol in the instrumental music program at St Joseph's Primary School, they are automatically included in both individual lessons and an ensemble. Students will be collected from class once a week to participate in their instrumental lesson with one of our skilled educators, focusing on music literacy, technique, and performance skills. These skills will be informally assessed each semester.

To support the teaching of various instruments in both individual and group settings, we use a method book as a key resource for structured learning. Your child's instrumental educator will advise on which method books and materials are needed. Additionally, students may choose to pursue formal assessment through the Australian Music Examinations Board (A.M.E.B.) syllabus.

As part of our new ensemble-based program, students will participate in weekly ensemble sessions at no additional cost. These ensembles will have opportunities to perform multiple times throughout the year, including the annual QCMF performance at Villanova College.

Lesson Types

Lesson Type	Overview	Cost Per Lesson
Individual 20min	20min lessons are offered to students in Prep & Year 1.	\$35
Individual 30min	30min individual lessons are available for all ages (including Prep & Year 1).	\$45
Shared 30min	Shared lessons have a maximum of 2 students.	\$35

An annual levy of \$80 per student is charged to fund concerts, excursions and performance opportunities for all students. Refunds and credits are not provided for students who unenroll partway through the year. Pro-rata is not provided for students who enrol partway through the year.



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2025 Lesson Schedule

Term 1	10 Week Term	8 lessons	
Term 2	10 Week Term	9 lessons	NB: 1 week in each term is left free for any make-up lessons.
Term 3	10 Week Term	9 lessons	
Term 4	9 Week Term	8 lessons	

Absences from Lessons and Rehearsals:

- Parents are required to email the Instrumental Music Educator prior to 8 am on the morning of the lesson for medical absences, otherwise no make-up lesson for individual lessons will be given.
- Students who receive lessons scheduled before 8:40am must notify the Instrumental Music Educator via email prior to 6:30am for medical absences, otherwise no make-up lesson for individual lessons will be given.
- Make up lessons are only provided for medical reasons, school events, teacher absences and public holidays.
- Make up lessons, credits or refunds will not be made for students who are absent during the term for reasons other than medical.
- Make up lessons, credits, or refunds, are not provided for students who miss their shared lessons, even if the reason is medical.
- Shared Lesson students will only receive a make-up lesson in the event the Instrumental Music Educator is absent, public holiday or there is a school commitment/event.



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Ensembles

When students enrol in lessons for an instrument and/or voice, they are automatically registered into the following groups:

1. Junior Choir (Prep-3)
2. Senior Choir (4-6)
3. Concert Band
4. Guitar Orchestra
5. String Orchestra
6. Piano Ensemble

Rehearsals

All ensemble and choir rehearsals are held before school. Students receive **45min** of playing/singing during the rehearsals.

It is an expectation that students who are part of the ensembles/choir commit to attending rehearsals for the year and perform at events as required.

Rehearsal Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:35am -	Concert Band	Junior Choir (Prep-3)	Senior Choir (Grades 4-6)	Piano Ensemble	String Orchestra
8:30am	Guitar Orchestra				



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Performances

Each year, our ensembles (including choirs) perform at the annual QCMF event held at Villanova College. St Joseph's Primary School boasts an impressive streak of gold awards at this festival.

Ensembles are also provided with other performance opportunities throughout the year.

Instrument Hire

Instrument hire is available for the instruments listed below:

Instrument Group

List of Instruments

Woodwind

Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bass Clarinet

Brass

Trombone, Baritone, Trumpet,

Strings

Violin, Viola, Cello

Availability

All instrument hire is subject to availability. Students are always encouraged to purchase their own instrument. Please consult your child's instrumental educator for advice before purchasing an instrument. This will ensure that your child has the appropriate instrument for their lessons.

Cost

Instrument Hire is \$90 per term. This fee is used to cover the cost of the instrument and the annual servicing that is required.



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Damage To Music Equipment

The following is relevant if any musical instruments are damaged:

- Parents/Guardians are financially liable for damage caused to St Joseph's Primary School resources and/or equipment
- The damage to any musical equipment and whether the instrument is repairable or needs to be replaced, will be governed solely by Instrumental Music Educators and St Joseph's Primary School.
- It is recommended families list school instruments on their home and contents policy.



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Expectations & Commitment From Students & Parents/Carers

Once a student has been selected and has joined the program there will be new responsibilities and 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 rehearsals.
- Punctually attending all performances, and
- Committing to the program for the minimum of a full school term
- Regular home practice. Minimum 3-4 times per week.
- Suitable space to practise at home.

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.



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- Assisting the student to meet his/her responsibilities.

Leaving the Instrumental Music Program:

- Parents/Carers need to personally contact the Instrumental Music Educator and Director of Music to leave the instrumental music program.
- 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.

Exceptions to these conditions can be changed at the discretion of the Director of Music or School Principal.

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/Ensembles 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 music fees are not up to date.
- Exclusion only occurs in consultation with the Principal and when all other avenues to resolve the circumstances have been unsuccessful.



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Performance Uniform

At St Joseph's Primary School, it is our aim to provide a performance opportunity for every child who takes part in instrumental music, should they feel ready and comfortable to perform in front of an audience.

The St Joseph's **Formal** Uniform is to be worn to all concerts, competitions and public performances by our school bands and other groups.

Girl's Uniform

Tartan Dress

Black leather school shoes

School socks

Bottle green hair accessories

Boy's Uniform

Boys Formal Green Shirt

Black school shorts

Black leather shoes

School socks

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. Here is a couple of ideas that may help at home:

- Actively listen to your child practice.
- Make a comment about the progress you notice.
- Show pride in their achievements and let them overhear you talking about them.



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- Ask them to play for guests at home.
- Notice difficult sections and ask how they are played.
- Set a practise routine.

Your child's Instrumental Music Educator will be able to help with practice strategies and tips.

[Link To Enrol Now](#)