



Overnewton
Anglican Community College

Performing Arts

Instrumental Music Program Handbook



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Music Lessons – a Valuable Investment

Learning an instrument or taking vocal lessons offers students numerous benefits:

Skill Development and Creativity:

There is great satisfaction in both developing skills and expressing creativity.

Persistence and Resilience:

Students build confidence, persistence, and resilience through their musical journey.

Academic Performance:

Research shows that students who learn and practice an instrument tend to perform better in non-music subjects compared to those who don't. Our experience supports these findings, the 2022–2024 College Duxes have all been committed music students.

Subject Choice at VCE:

Students who take music lessons can choose music as a subject in VCE.

Social and Leadership Skills:

Music students can join bands, orchestras, and ensembles, which allows them to develop their social and leadership skills while participating in a “music team.”

Performance Opportunities:

There are opportunities to perform at college and external events at prestigious venues such as Hamer Hall and St Paul's Cathedral.

I. Lesson Organisation

- Students receive a minimum of 16 lessons each semester.
- If a student cannot attend a lesson due to an excursion, test, appointment, holiday, etc., a minimum of 24 hours' notice is required to be eligible for a make-up lesson. Teachers appreciate as much notice as possible to reschedule lessons.
- When a student forgets a lesson, they are not eligible for a make-up lesson.
- In case of illness, please notify the instrumental/vocal teacher before 8 am (or earlier if possible). For before-school lessons, 1 hours' notice must be given.
- If students are eligible, teachers will offer one “make-up” lesson per term if a mutually acceptable time can be arranged. Additional make-up lessons are not available.
- Absence must be communicated directly to the teacher via email not through Compass (unless other arrangements have been made).
- Lesson times are posted on the student's Compass daily schedule.
- Junior School students are picked up by their instrumental teacher for their lesson. From Year 5, students make their own way to lessons.
- Should a decision be made to withdraw at the end of a semester, a full term's notice is required in writing by emailing music@overnewton.vic.edu.au If a student loses interest in their lessons, please contact the teacher to explore options for re-engagement.

2. Achieving Success

- Students make progress based on their commitment. We encourage daily practice, guided by the focus set by their teacher. The "thrill" of success is a great motivator for engagement.
- Adequate time is required to develop skills. Families are advised to commit to a full year of learning to see measurable progress.
- The quality of the instrument impacts a student's learning. If purchasing an instrument, please consult the teacher. **"If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"**
- Students are encouraged to join a band, orchestra, or ensemble once their skills are adequate. Participation enhances musical development and fosters teamwork.
- The College offers numerous ensembles, and participation strengthens the skills learned in lessons. Performances take place throughout the year at events such as the Overnewton Anglican Community College Festival of Music. There is no charge for weekly ensemble rehearsals.

3. Instrument Choice

The College offers lessons in the below.

Instrument	Age	Hire available?	Instrument	Age	Hire available?
Alto Sax	From Year 5	Yes	Percussion - Contemporary & Orchestral	From Year 5	No
Cello	From Prep	Yes	Piano - Classical and Contemporary ²	From Prep	No
Clarinet	From Year 3	Yes	Tenor Sax	From Year 6	Yes
Cornet	From Year 3	Yes	Trombone	From Year 4	Yes
Double Bass	From Prep	Yes	Trumpet	From Year 5	Yes
Drums ¹	From Prep	No	Tuba	From Year 6	Yes
Euphonium	From Year 6	Yes	Violin and Viola	From Prep	Yes
Flute	From Year 3	Yes	Guitar (Acoustic and Electric)	From Prep	No
French Horn	From Year 6	Yes	Voice - Classical and Contemporary	From Year 3	N/A

¹ Beginner students use a practice pad and sticks. A drumkit will be required as they progress.

² Students require a keyboard (preferably weighted) or a piano.

Lessons are also available in Music Theory & Musicianship.

4. Ensembles, Bands, Orchestras and Choirs

Families should email the staff contact should they want their child to participate to confirm the standard required and availability.

Senior School				
Ensemble	Rehearsal Day	Time	Room	Staff Contact
Symphonic Band	Monday	3:30 - 5:00	S201	Jenny Going
String Orchestra	Friday	7:30 - 8:30	S201	Prue Jury
Rock Bands	Thursday	3:30 - 4:30	Music rooms	Greg Stone
Jazz Band	Tuesday	3:30 - 5:00	S201	Stephen Hornby
SS Choir	Tuesday	Lunchtime	S201	Natasha Mateus
Year 9				
Symphonic Band	Monday	3:30 - 5:00	S201	Jenny Going
Gravity Band	Wednesday	3:30 - 4:40	S201	Jenny Going & George Katsikas
String Orchestra	Friday	7:30 - 8:30	S201	Prue Jury
Rock Bands	Monday/Thursday	3:30 - 4:30	YC Music rooms	Greg Stone
Year 9 Music Group	Wednesday	Lunchtime	MU1	Stephen Hornby
Middle School				
Symphonic Band	Monday	3:30 - 5:00	S201	Jenny Going
String Orchestra	Friday	7:30 - 8:30	S201	Prue Jury
Gravity Band	Wednesday	3:30 - 4:40	S201	Jenny Going & George Katsikas
Burrito Band for Year 6	Wednesday/Thursday	Lunchtime/8:15-8:55	S201	Jenny Going & Paula Hessey
String Fusion	Friday	7:30 - 8:30	S202	Ally Broddle
Rock Bands	Monday/Thursday	3:30 - 4:30	Music rooms	Greg Stone
Little Big Band	Wednesday	8:00 - 8:50	S201	Paul Van Ross
Year 5/6 Choir	Thursday	Lunchtime	6/7 Stairs	Felicity Woodlock
Year 7/8 Choir	Monday	Lunchtime	6/7 Stairs	Natasha Mateus
Junior School				
Stringlings	Wednesday	3:30 - 4:30	MU1	Ally Broddle
Junior Strings	Wednesday	3:30 - 4:30	Well-being	Prue Jury
Orffestra	Tuesday	8:00 – 8:40	MU2	Prue Jury & Melinda Wejak
Year 1 Choir	Monday	3:30 – 4:00	MU3	Prue Jury & Melinda Wejak
Year 2 Choir	Wednesday	8:00 – 8:40	Piazza	Felicity Woodlock
Year 3/4 Choir	Monday	3:30 – 4:15	Piazza	Felicity Woodlock

5. Examinations

The College encourages students to enter **music examinations**. There are many benefits -

- receive feedback from an external expert
- work to an authentic deadline- often a motivator for practice
- receive acknowledgement in the form of a certificate
- experience an exam environment (skills developed are transferable to other situations- Naplan, College exams etc.)
- develop performance skills that prepare them to pursue music at VCE should they wish to do so

Teachers will discuss this option when students are at a standard to participate.

6. Additional Details

Lesson Length and Fees

AMEB Music Grade	Length of Lesson	Tuition Fee (Per Term)
AMEB Grades 1-4	30 minutes	\$400
AMEB Grades 5-6	45 minutes	\$600
AMEB Grade 7 and above	60 minutes	\$800
VCE Music	60 or 90 minutes	\$800 or \$1200

Lesson Times

Lessons are held during the day, with students leaving their class for the duration of the lesson. This is arranged by the Instrumental Teacher in consultation with staff, students and parents. A limited number of before or after school lessons are available. VCE students are given preference to these lessons.

Billing

Parents/Guardians will be invoiced by the College at the beginning of each term and all payment options are outlined on invoices issued. Fees are due and payable within two weeks of the invoice being issued. Parents/Guardians should contact College if there are any difficulties with this deadline. Any billing queries should be directed to the music administrator.

Student Music Progress Book

A Music Progress Book or online equivalent will be provided each year, which must be brought to each lesson. In this way there is regular communication of practice requirements and progress is tracked. The cost is added to the instrumental fees.

Hiring an Instrument

The College offers instrument hire (except for pianos, guitars, and drumkits). If an instrument is returned early, no refund will be given. Parents are responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement if the instrument is damaged or lost. Hire fees are available by request – music@overnewton.vic.edu.au

Music Assessment

Students will be assessed formally as part of the program. Parents/Guardians will receive a written report at the end of each semester. Parents are encouraged to check the weekly comments provided by the teacher to ensure that practice is focussed and effective.

Thank you for considering music education for your child. Should you require further information, feel free to email: music@overnewton.vic.edu.au