



THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Instrumental Application form 2025

Why Learn an Instrument

“Music can have a profound, positive effect on your child’s mental and physical development”, Philip Sheppard, from his book ‘Music Makes Your Child Smarter’.

Music is an essential part of a child’s education. As well as providing something that is enjoyable, creative and social that they can take with them through life; music has been shown to develop a child’s brain in critical ways that no other subject area can.

If you would like your child to have an opportunity to creatively express themselves, gain confidence in public performance, be assisted in excelling academically or help them if they are struggling in their schoolwork – then why not have them learn a musical instrument?

Instruments

Students can learn the following instruments at school:

Piano **Guitar** **Theory** **Flute**

**Please note, we recommend guitar students wait until Grade 2. We have found that their hands are quite small in Prep and Grade 1. Students starting earlier will be pending a trial lesson.*

Instrument Purchase

It is essential that students learn from day one on a suitable instrument that will allow them to develop properly.

Piano –The instrument needs to be acoustic (with strings inside) that is in good working order and is regularly tuned, or a digital piano. A digital piano needs to have the full 88 keys, be weighted (the keys feel as heavy as an acoustic piano), be touch sensitive (can play softer and louder depending on how hard you hit the keys), have a sustain pedal and a good quality piano sound. Please note that a ‘keyboard’ is not a digital piano and is not suitable.

Guitar – A quality student level acoustic guitar, with good intonation (the guitar stays in tune as you play up the neck to the higher frets), be of appropriate size (as a guide: 3-6 years = ½ size, & 6-10 years = ¾ size), has good quality strings and is tuned very regularly (this will be taught in the first lessons).

Theory – This choice is for students who already have experience learning an instrument. Access to a piano or digital piano is essential. Students would prepare for an AMEB theory exam. Theory is a great accompaniment for intermediate to advanced instrumental students to learn the nuts and bolts of music.

Flute – Flute is relatively cheap and accessible woodwind instrument for all ages. Very small children can benefit from a flute with a curved head joint to make the instrument shorter and easier to hold.

Please note: if you have not already bought an instrument; talk to your student's teacher before doing so. Lessons cannot commence until students have a suitable instrument at home to practice on.

Lesson Fees

Lessons are for 30 minutes per week, during school time, on a rolling timetable. All lessons are on an individual basis. Lesson fees are paid on a per term basis. There are two options for paying fees, as listed below:

Standard	- rate \$42.50 per lesson
Concession	- rate \$37.50 per lesson, applied once a valid concession card has been provided

* fees are based on the *Victorian Music Teachers Association* (VMTA) recommended rates.

Payment of Fees

Upon submitting an application, you will be billed via email. Payment is by direct deposit into the teacher's bank account. The due dates are as follows:

- Term 1 Friday of the first week of school
- Term 2, 3 & 4 The last Friday of the term before

Parents will be billed for the next due term, 3 weeks before the start of the upcoming term.

Early Termination of Lessons

Parents may remove their child from the instrumental program at any time, but penalties will apply. All lessons already taught up to the early termination date will be re-calculated at the full rate, plus an early exit fee of \$100 will be added. These penalties cannot exceed the amount already paid. Any amount remaining will be reimbursed to parents.

Single Invoicing

Where siblings are being taught by different teachers, parents will be sent a single invoice that covers all lessons.

Missed Lessons

Missed lessons will be made up or credited if they are caused by the teacher (absence, illness) or the school (excursions, incursions). If a student misses a lesson, make-up lessons will only be given if your child is sick, and the teacher has been advised before the lesson. Make-up lessons will not be given due to holiday extensions. However, if your child will miss several lessons due to holidays, please contact your teacher. Teachers will use their discretion when giving make-up lessons.

First Lesson

Lessons will start in week 2 of the year, so please have applications and payments completed by week 1 of the year; although it is possible to start at any time.

Tutors and Diaries

All music students are expected to have a tutor book to learn from. Your child's teacher will advise you as the correct tutor book to buy. Music practice diaries are provided free of charge to all instrumental students. At the end of each lesson, teachers will write in the student's diary what pieces and exercises are to practice for the next lesson.

Practice

Students need to have an area in their house where they can practice daily without bothering others or being bothered themselves. Their instrument should be readily available. Guitar students should have a music stand for ease of reading. As a guide, students should play through their pieces and exercises 3-5 times each, daily; paying attention to the particular technique/s that are being focused on.

Performance

In term 2 and term 4 all instrumental students will perform in a concert to showcase to parents what they have been learning.

Assessment

Reports will be sent to parents at the end of term 4, along with the school reports. All instrumental students will be assessed at one of the following levels: beginner, consolidating, preliminary, grade 1, grade 2, grade 3 etc. Students may sit AMEB exams if they wish and their teacher deems them ready.

Questions

If you have any questions about learning an instrument, please feel free to talk to, or email Mr Phavian Phipat

Mr Phipat

Instrumental Music Program Coordinator

E: Phaviansjm@gmail.com

P: 0403 934 494

HOW TO ENROLL

If you wish to enroll your child, please email the information asked for below to Phavian Phipat at phaviansjm@gmail.com

- Student name
- Student year level or grade in 2025
- Parent's names
- Phone number
- Email address
- Which instrument you would like your child to learn from the follow list:
 - *Piano, Guitar, Flute, Music Theory*
- Do you already have an instrument at home? If so, what is the make and model?