



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM POLICY

Rationale:

The Instrumental and Ensemble Music Program policy outlines the requirements and expectations of students enrolled in our Instrumental Music Program. The policy adheres with guidelines as set out by the South Eastern Victoria Regional (SEVR).

Research shows that the most effective teaching and learning takes place in Instrumental Music when students access a weekly individual or small group lesson in conjunction with regular ensemble rehearsals. Students are able to develop broader musical skills. This combination provides students with a broad range of educational experiences, which enriches their learning, allowing them to progress faster and maintain their interest levels longer.

Aims:

The aim of this policy is to promote excellence in the Performing Arts, to support the continued growth of the Instrumental Music and Ensemble Program and to maximise the learning outcomes for each of our students. The College has a proud tradition of providing a comprehensive music education for our students, offering tuition on a wide range of traditional and contemporary instruments and a Band Form program at Year 7 and 8.

Implementation:

Students in Year 7 may enrol in 1 instrument. Students in Years 8-12 may enrol in up to 2 instruments. Students in Year 7 and 8 enhancement classes must learn either a Woodwind, Brass, Percussion or Stringed instrument from the range offered for that year. **All students enrolled in Instrumental Music lessons will be enrolled in at least one ensemble for each instrument.**

The Music Ensembles are:

- Year 7 Band
- Year 7 Strings
- Year 8 Band
- Year 8 Strings
- Symphonic Band
- Junior String Ensemble
- Senior String Ensemble
- All Star Choir
- Madrigal (Chamber Choir) (by audition only)
- Junior Guitar Ensemble
- Senior Guitar Ensemble
- Big Band
- Junior Percussion Ensemble
- Senior Percussion Ensemble

The attached policy outlines the requirements of students enrolled in Instrumental lessons. It includes details of the Music Levy, Instrument Hire, expectations of Ensemble rehearsals and the Music Performance Uniform. Students will be expected to attend weekly rehearsals and participate in all scheduled performances.

Evaluation:

This Policy will be evaluated and reviewed annually in consultation with College Music Staff and SEVR Instrumental Music Coordinators at the end of each school year.

Students involved in the Instrumental and Ensemble program at Mentone Girls' Secondary College for 2024 should read this information. This includes:

- Students enrolled in the Year 7 and Year 8 Specialist Music Forms
- Students undertaking Instrumental Music at the College

In formulating this policy, the Music Department adheres to guidelines as prescribed by the South Eastern Victorian Regional (SEVR) Office in Sections 5, 6, 7 of the SEVR Annual Secondary School Music Submission.

Information for Students and Parents

1. Music Ensembles

All students participating in the Instrumental Music Program at Mentone Girls' Secondary College will be members of one or more of the MGSC Music Ensembles.

2. Instrumental Music Lessons

- Students are expected to commit to lessons for an entire year
- A change of instrument or additional instrumental lessons on a second instrument (including voice) must be approved by the Director of Performing Arts
- College policy requires that instrumental music lessons take priority over other co-curricular activities
- The Music Department supports the woodwind students by providing at minimum cost reeds which may be purchased from their Instrumental Teacher
- Instrumental students may be requested to purchase a suitable tutor book (at an additional cost) to support their Instrumental tuition.

3. Instrumental Music Levy

- The Instrumental Music levy is \$570 and must be paid in full before lessons commence
- Students who are studying VCE Music and receiving individual lessons will be charged \$720
- Students are only able to begin learning a new instrument at the commencement of each semester and will pay either full fees or 60% of the full amount for Semester 2
- The Instrumental Music levy is not refundable

4. Hiring of Instruments (limited availability)

- Annual instrument hire is \$210. Instruments will not be issued to students until the full amount is paid
- Students are only able to hire an instrument at the commencement of each semester and will pay either full fees or 60% of the full amount for Semester 2
- There are a limited number of instruments available for hire from the College. Year 7 and 8 Music Specialist Class students will have priority in the allocation of instruments
- Acoustic/electric guitars, amplifiers and drum kits are not available for hire
- Faulty or damaged instruments should be reported immediately to the Instrumental Music Teacher or Director of Performing Arts who will organise repairs

- Students are responsible for the cost of replacing lost instruments, or for repairs to any instrument damaged by mishandling or inappropriate use
- All instruments are to be returned to the school before the end of classes in Term 4 unless they are being hired again in the following year.

5. Requirements for participation in the Music Ensemble Program

- Regular and prompt attendance at scheduled rehearsals
- Attendance and participation at all performances
- Appointments and other activities should not be scheduled during rehearsal or performance times
- Appropriate behaviour is expected at rehearsals. Students should respect the College Code of Conduct and the rights of others during rehearsals and performances.

MGSC Music Performance Uniform

Students performing in all of the College ensembles are required to wear full winter uniform including the school blazer.