



## Enoggera State School

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Enoggera State School circa 1916

# Instrumental Music Program – Strings and Band

## Information Booklet 2024/5

This booklet contains information to assist you as your child enters the Instrumental Music Program at Enoggera State School.

We hope your involvement in the program will be a happy and rewarding one for both you and your child.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Learning to play a musical instrument can be an immensely satisfying challenge. Students have the opportunity to develop friendships with students from other schools at Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Music Camps. The ability to play an instrument also opens the door to friendships with students of other year levels particularly when students continue to be involved in Instrumental Music at High School. Music is a source of pleasure throughout one's life.

### **AIM**

The aim of the Instrumental Music Program is to give students the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument in a group lesson situation. Providing ensemble/band experience for students develops their performance skills and extends their knowledge. All students who wish to be involved will be given the opportunity to apply. We are, however, limited by the number of instruments we have and the time allocated for a teacher.

### **THE SELECTION PROCESS**

Students are considered for selection to play an instrument if they demonstrate strong musical aptitude in the Selmer test (for musical aptitude). This takes place at the end of Year 2 for string instruments and at the end of Year 3 for band instruments. Children are also checked for their general attitude to study and their physical suitability to a particular instrument. Student interest in the instrument is also considered. Students who have their own instrument may learn in our program. It is expected that students of this program must attend all weekly lessons, rehearsals and performances.

### **INSTRUMENTS**

#### **String Family**

Violin  
Viola  
Cello  
Double Bass

#### **Woodwind Family**

Flute  
Clarinet  
Saxophone

#### **Brass Family**

Trumpet  
Trombone  
(Euphonium)\*

#### **Percussion Family**

Glockenspiel  
Snare Drum  
Bass Drum  
Auxiliary Percussion

The school loans the above instruments to students selected to participate in the chosen program for a nominal fee.

All instruments are only hired for the initial twelve months. After the first year parents are required to purchase or hire an instrument of their own for their child.

\*To be implemented at a later date.

### **TUITION**

#### **Group Lessons**

Small group lessons provide an opportunity for students to explicitly focus on music literacy, techniques and specific performance skills. Students are initially grouped by year level and instruments of the same family for lessons. This is reviewed at the end of their first year and may be

reviewed at the end of each term. Lessons are given in groups, averaging 6 to 8 students, with no individual tuition. Each lesson is on a weekly basis for duration of thirty minutes. All lessons are held in class time. The Instrumental Music Instructor, in consultation with the school co-ordinator, arranges lesson times. Parents should request their child's teacher to nominate a "buddy" who will help their child catch up any work missed while at instrumental music lessons.

### **Home Practice**

Students are expected to complete regular home practise between lessons and to complete any written work. Teachers will provide resources and teach routines around home practice for students as needed. Parents are most welcome to attend lessons.

### **Ensembles**

#### **String Ensembles**

Enoggera String Ensembles are based on curriculum levels.

**Extension ensemble:** is presently Curriculum level 4 and above.

**Senior String Ensemble:** Level 2 -3, and generally consists of violin, viola cello and bass. The ensemble must produce a balanced sound, so each section of the ensemble is equally important. Talented and strong players are just as important in the second and third violin sections as in the first violin, cello and double bass sections. The string teacher will advise when each student is ready for ensemble and which ensemble best suits their standard of playing. The Senior String Ensemble have a Leader and a Captain. They are selected by the Instrumental Teachers in consultation with the Program Co-ordinator as the students best qualified to lead the ensemble.

**Junior String Ensemble:** beginner strings students are formed into a Junior String Ensemble from the start of lessons. The Junior String Ensemble will rehearse during one lunch play time each week.

**Band:** All students who attend woodwind, brass or percussion small group lessons, will be required to attend a band rehearsal, held during Wednesday second break.

***Attendance at Ensembles is compulsory.***

***Availability for performances is expected.***

### **ENSEMBLE MUSIC**

When the student reaches the required level they become a member of an ensemble. Rehearsals take place before school and music for Ensemble is kept in the student's Band Folder. Music must be returned to the instrumental teacher in good condition when required, and all band music must be returned before the end of the year. **It is very expensive to replace music and students must replace any music lost or damaged.**

### **INSTRUMENT CARE**

Children are expected to take care with their instruments to avoid damage and costly repairs. **Please contact your house and contents insurer to make sure the instrument is covered under your policy. Parents will be liable for repair costs if hired instruments are damaged due to misuse, neglect or accidental breakage.** If a school instrument requires repair, please see your Instrumental teacher or music teacher before taking it to a repairer.

### **INSURANCE**

The school pays for the maintenance of school instruments; however the child is responsible for repairs for damage or for replacement if lost or stolen. If you have an expensive instrument you may like to check your household insurance for cover of lost instruments.

## **PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS**

The aim of the uniform is to present the group in the best possible way at a minimum of expense to the parents. Parents are required to purchase the Enoggera State School Performing Arts shirt when their child joins the band or ensemble. The Enoggera State School Performing Arts Shirt is to be worn with long black dress trousers, black school shoes and black socks. Shirts can be purchased from the school uniform shop. The long black dress trousers, black shoes and black socks may be purchased from Lowes, Big W, Target or Kmart. Please note black tights, jeans or leggings are not acceptable.

## **COMMITMENT**

The benefits of learning an instrument are numerous and very worthwhile. Music goals don't always come easily but students will achieve with perseverance. The appreciation and enjoyment of music that comes from learning an instrument is unlike anything else one can do. Researchers have found that students who study music improve in all other areas of study. Time management skills are learnt in primary school, by students who organise themselves to practice regularly.

### **Students**

- I need to commit to learning through to the end of Primary School.
- I understand that I need to make time to practice at home. For beginners 10 - 15 minutes a day is quite adequate, but for more advanced students 20 - 30 minutes a day is necessary. In all cases, a student who practises regularly will perform much better than a student with natural talent who only practises occasionally.
- I understand that I need to be prepared for lessons and ensemble rehearsals each week.

### **Parents**

- Parents need to be committed to helping their child learn to play an instrument.
- Ensure they are prepared for lessons and encourage general etiquette around being at their lesson and rehearsals on time.
- Parents must be willing to take the time to listen to and encourage music practice. On the whole children prefer to play if they have an audience. By the end of Year 5, finding the time for music practice can become very difficult. It is most important, however, that parents not allow their children to "drop out" at this stage. At high school there are many new experiences to be gained by instrumental students.
- Have a quiet space for practice set aside with a music stand, away from distractions.
- Encourage them often! Being positive and taking an interest will help your child overcome those moments of self-doubt and challenge. Practice is a time to work on those challenging technical sections, which at times sounds a little strange. Give them a sense that they're not alone in their challenges. Everyone struggles with learning something new, but the rewards are great!

A musical group is a team. A student who "drops out" cannot be replaced due to the progressive nature of instrumental study. These students let down the other members of the group as every person has an important part to play. The balance of instruments and sound in an ensemble is extremely important. One student dropping out can greatly affect this balance.

## **IF PROBLEMS ARISE**

There will be times when the going gets tough while learning an instrument. Keeping motivated to practise daily is very difficult. New goals to work towards need to be found on a regular basis. If your child is having difficulties with motivation, it could help to talk over the problem with someone. Instrumental teachers are always happy to help with problems if they can, as well as parents who have been in your place before.

## **SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE MUSIC PRACTICE A LITTLE EASIER**

- The more often music practice is done the easier it becomes. The feeling that progress is being made makes everyone feel great.
- A routine must be developed. Negotiate a time each day for practice and stick to it.
- Try two short practices a day, with the first early in the day, instead of one longer one.
- Changing the physical environment from time to time can help e.g. practise in a different room or for a larger audience once a week.
- Set goals. Parents can help a child to set themselves goals for a single practice or for a week e.g. concentrating on one difficult section of music in one practice or trying for a weekly goal of improving posture.
- Rewards are a very effective way to encourage practice. This can be in the form of awarding points for each practice where ten points brings a reward.
- Play in front of family and friends at every opportunity.
- Practise with a friend from time to time if possible.
- Children love to have a parent or sister or brother play along with them. This can be one of the best motivations for a young student, especially if they can “teach” their parent.
- Parents need to enforce practice. Even the best musicians need to be encouraged to practice.

## **MUSIC CAMPS/WORKSHOP DAYS**

When the students begin in the music program, they attend a **Beginners’ Music Camp**. This is held over two days at the start of Term 1. It develops basic knowledge and grounding for music and teaches the students care of their instruments and gives an insight into the instrument’s capabilities. All students must attend. The cost for the Beginners’ Music Camp is approximately \$55.00.

**Beginner Band Blitz** – To be held in August for year 4 students. A day to connect with other students in schools on the Northside of Brisbane who are at the same level. Details to come out shortly with costings.

**Intermediate Music Camp** - is designed for those students who have been learning for at least one year, and do not attend Advanced Music Camp. Students do not have to audition to attend. The camp is held over two days in August and costs approximately \$60.

**Advanced Music Camp** - is for Year 6 students who have been assessed across the cluster. Some advanced younger students are invited to balance the program. The camp provides students with experience in String Orchestra, Concert Band, and Choir together with a range of social and physical activities with students from all primary schools in the Ferny Grove Cluster. The activities are designed to foster group unity and cooperation, self-confidence and self-discipline in the field of Instrumental Music. Planned activities include full ensemble rehearsals, sectionals, choral rehearsals and master classes. The camp is held over four days in June and culminates in a Twilight Concert. The cost of the camp is approximately \$110.00 per student (includes Thursday lunch and t-shirt, specialist tutor/accompanist fees).

## **INSTRUMENT HIRE**

The initial Hire fee of **\$110.00** (including GST) is payable to the school before receiving your instrument. The fee is only for students using the School’s instruments. The fee covers the cost of maintenance, repairs and eventually the replacement of the instruments currently in use. Additional costs for parents may include rosin for stringed instruments. Most music stores hire

instruments. There is no obligation to hire an instrument from the school. Parents may wish to hire from a music store, or purchase an instrument.

## **MUSIC FEE**

The **annual** music fee for 2024 is \$60.00.

### **Books for Tuition**

These are selected by the Instrumental Music Teachers. Books may be purchased in a pack from the music store and include all the necessary essentials specific to your child's instrument, to get your child started. A band folder is included in the annual fee.

Band Book Packs are available at the following link: <https://www.blowwinds.com.au/product-category/school-packs/enoggera-state-school/>

You can choose to buy the necessary essentials and method book from this website, or you may choose to purchase each item from another source. All items listed are essential for each lesson.

## **REPORTS**

One school Classroom Reports will contain a section reporting upon individual student's progress. These are completed on a semester basis by the instrumental music teacher working with your child.

### **PUBLIC PERFORMANCES/COMPETITIONS**

The main purpose of a musical group is to perform for the enjoyment of themselves and others. For this reason **performances are an integral part** of the school music program.

The Instrumental Music Teachers will arrange for the ensembles to participate in a number of public performances and/or competitions each year.

Some previous performances have included:

- Fanfare (every second year in Term 2)
- Music Fest (every year in Term 4)
- School Functions and other school-based performances such as Assemblies, ceremonies, Winter Soiree and Arts on Stage

**Public performances and competitions are an integral part of the instrumental program and ALL students are expected to attend these performances even if at night or during the weekend to maintain the balance of the instrumentation in the group.**

Parents are required to arrange transport for their children to the venues.

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS**

The best way to keep in contact with your child's teacher is through email. Please email Mrs Rebecca Rees on [rmree1@eq.edu.au](mailto:rmree1@eq.edu.au) for band and Mrs Lisa Van Niekerk on [exvan8@eq.edu.au](mailto:exvan8@eq.edu.au) Alternatively, you can arrange a time to meet with either teacher if there are any problems.

Lesson and rehearsal times may change at the beginning of each new term.

Children will bring home a timetable advising the days their teacher visits the school. If you can only make contact by phone, try ringing the school on the day the instrumental teacher is normally at the school and leave a message for the teacher to return your call.

## **BUYING AN INSTRUMENT**

Some instruments are quite expensive, so plan early for the purchase. It's best to try to buy shortly before the end of your child's first year so that the instrument you wish to buy can be checked by your child's instrumental teacher. A new instrument is not really necessary as there are other options. Instruments have a good resale value if they are looked after and kept in good condition. Servicing prior to sale is recommended. No coloured instruments (pink, purple blue etc, are accepted into the school program. The quality of an instrument is so important so your child can achieve the best results possible. Generally, each time you go up a size, so should the quality of the instrument.

### **Buying Second Hand Instruments**

Reasonable second-hand instruments can at times be bought through local music stores, online market place options or at times, Cash Converters. It is best to buy a second-hand instrument through a specialist music store as they should have serviced the instrument and provide a warranty. The child should try the instrument and have some idea of how it compares with their school instrument. It is important, however, that advice be sought from a specialist instrumental teacher. Check the instrument case as well when buying, to ensure it will fit most accessories.

**Be wary of very cheap instruments and those sold on EBay and at ALDI. It is recommended that a purchase be done through a reputable specialist music store, such as Blow Woodwind and Brass, Vivace Music, Animato, Simply for Strings, John Simmers Violins or The Violin Studio. If you require any assistance, please talk with your string music teacher before purchasing an instrument.**

Great care must be taken when buying any instruments. The instrument must be checked by a specialist as it could have faults which are not immediately obvious.

# Enoggera State School String Program: Book pack list

Please have the following items ready and named before the start of the school year. I suggest phoning shops to check that they have stock available.

<b>Violin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beginners: Encore on Strings Book 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Second, Third and Fourth Year: Tricks to Tunes Books 2 and 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rosin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Microfibre dust cloth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Everest shoulder rest</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly advised: set of spare strings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Folding stand for camps and home practice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Display folder for sheets</li> </ul>	<b>Viola</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beginners: Encore on Strings Book 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Second, Third and Fourth Year: Tricks to Tunes Books 2 and 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rosin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Microfibre dust cloth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Everest shoulder rest</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly advised: set of spare strings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Folding stand for camps and home practice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Display folder for sheets</li> </ul>
<b>Cello</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beginners: Encore on Strings Book 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Second, Third and Fourth Year: Tricks to Tunes Books 2 and 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rosin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Microfibre dust cloth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rock stop</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly advised: set of spare strings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Folding stand for camps and home practice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Display folder for sheets</li> </ul>	<b>Double Bass</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beginners: Encore on Strings Book 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Second, Third and Fourth Year: Tricks to Tunes Books 2 and 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rosin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Microfibre dust cloth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rock stop</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stool with foot rung for home practice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Folding stand for camps and home practice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Display folder for sheets</li> </ul>
<b>Flute</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential Elements Book 1 – Flute</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flute Hanky</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Cloth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A5 Notebook for notes and homework</li> </ul>	<b>Clarinet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential Elements Book 1 – Clarinet</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Pull-thru</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> La Tromba Cork Grease (3g)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2x Vandoren Juno 2.0 Clarinet Reeds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A5 Notebook for notes and homework</li> </ul>
<b>Saxophone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential Elements Book 1 – Alto Saxophone</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Pull-thru</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> La Tromba Cork Grease (3g)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mouthpiece Patch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 4x Vandoren Juno 2.0 Alto Saxophone Reeds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A5 Notebook for notes and homework</li> </ul>	<b>Trumpet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential Elements Book 1 – Trumpet</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Valve Oil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Slide Grease</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A5 Notebook for notes and homework</li> </ul>
<b>Trombone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential Elements Book 1 – Trombone</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Slide Lubricant</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regular Tuning Slide Lube</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mini-mist compact spray bottle</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A5 Notebook for notes and homework</li> </ul>	<b>Percussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential Elements Book 1 – Percussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 5A Drum Sticks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 8 Inch Practice Pad Natural Rubber</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry bag for music etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A5 Notebook for notes and homework</li> </ul>