

St John's College Nambour



VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2020

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Vocal and Instrumental Music at St John's College. Music is an integral part of the academic, spiritual and cultural life of St John's College. We have a long and cherished tradition of excellence in music education and offer students a unique range of musical and educational experiences.

Past students who participated in Instrumental and Vocal Music have transitioned into a vast array of pathways, with a richer and more comprehensive education as a result. Many of our school leaders, both current and past, have been strong contributors to the Instrumental and Vocal Music Program.

We are confident in the knowledge that no matter what experience students have had, they will be able to explore their musical potential, and find a rich and rewarding musical experience in the St John's Instrumental and Vocal Music Program.

This handbook provides information, details and arrangements to help both student and parent understand what is being offered to support your son's/daughter's music development. Through commitment and practice it is hoped that your child can achieve their musical goals. Feedback is important to us and you are invited to contact the Vocal and Instrumental Music Coordinator at any time. The Instrumental Music Program at St John's College offers professional private tuition for keen and committed students. We hope that your involvement in the program will be fulfilling and enjoyable.

BROAD AIMS OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

The aims of the Instrumental Music Program are the development of the student's musical, social and personal awareness through participation in instrumental music instruction, ensembles, rehearsals and performances.

It is not seen as an end in itself but rather as something that will add significantly to the quality of life both now at school and later in life. Students will be encouraged to commit to and participate in the various St John's College ensembles to experience the joys of music-making and to stimulate their interest in music.

INSTRUMENT TUITION OFFERED

Tuition is available for the following instruments:

STRINGS	WOODWIND	BRASS	OTHER
Violin	Flute	Trumpet	Piano
Viola	Piccolo	Trombone	Percussion
Cello	Clarinet	Euphonium	Drum Kit
Double Bass	Bass Clarinet	Tuba	Voice
	Saxophone	French horn	Guitar
	Oboe		Bass Guitar
			Classical Guitar

INSTRUMENT HIRE

College instruments have been kindly donated by our College P & F. Subject to availability, instruments are provided for students in the program at no additional cost.

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

Students joining the Vocal & Instrumental Music Program will receive eight 30-minute lessons per term with a specialist teacher. All lessons during school time will be on a rotating timetable and every effort is made to minimize classroom disruption. St John's offers the option of private lessons or shared lessons (not available for piano or percussion).

Students will be able to study their chosen area and work towards school recitals, examinations and are invited to be involved in the Orchestra, Vocal Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Brass Ensemble or Stage Band.

TERM FEE:

\$280: Individual 30-minute lessons (recommended)

\$200: 2-share 30-minute lessons

PRACTICE

Students must practice. *"You don't have to practice on the days you don't eat."* These words express the view of Shinichi Suzuki, founder of the Suzuki violin method, and illustrate the importance of practice. To be successful on one's chosen instrument, regular practice is essential. Beginning students should start with about 15 minutes a day increasing to 30 minutes a day as they progress. One long practice session on the day of a lesson is virtually useless. Parents should ensure a set routine of practice is established at the beginning of the year.

Practice routine should include a warm-up, scales, technical work, studies and pieces (as set by the teacher) and orchestra/ensemble/choir music.

STAFF

The Co-curricular Music Program is staffed by highly qualified and experienced specialist music tutors. All music teachers are gifted performers on their instrument/s of choice and bring a wealth of knowledge and skill into the teaching studio.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The college provides a wide variety of performing groups for students to join. These include:

CHAPEL BAND

Monday 3.00–4.00 pm

CONCERT BAND

Friday 7.30am–8:30am

GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Tuesday 7.45–8.30 am

STAGE BAND

Wednesday 3.00–4:15pm

ORCHESTRA

Wednesdays 7.30–8.30am

BRASS ENSEMBLE

Wednesday 7:30–8:30pm

COLLEGE CHOIR

Thursday 3:00–4:15pm

Consistent with the music enrolment agreement, students learning an instrument are **encouraged to offer their talents** and become a member of a College ensemble. This enables students to progress on their instrument and allows for several performance opportunities to showcase their talents. Instrumental teachers are also asked to encourage students to participate in college organized bands, musicals and performance opportunities.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

There are many performance opportunities throughout the year and may include:

- Concerts both at school and in the wider community
- Local Eisteddfods
- Queensland Catholic Music Festival held at Villanova College
- Combined Secondary Schools Band Workshop held at Siena College
- Concerts at aged care facilities, religious festivals and liturgies

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Becoming a member of any St John's College Ensemble is a serious commitment for the **whole year**. Students must comply with **expected** attendance at all rehearsals, concerts and other performances. Rehearsals must be given a **high priority**. Clashes with sports trainings and other school activities are usually resolved with liaison between music and relevant coaches.

Attendance at rehearsals and performances is a necessary expectation for the smooth functioning of any group. Students who are unable to attend must inform their Ensemble Conductor by phoning the College Reception or emailing the Vocal and Instrumental Program Coordinator.

CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT

ABSENCE

If a student, for any genuine reason such as assessment or a very important lesson, is unable to attend their instrumental lesson, they must advise their Instrumental Music Teacher. In most cases, with **prior notice**, an alternative lesson time **can** be arranged. However, if the student does not notify the teacher in advance, it is very difficult to make alternative lesson times.

If a student simply forgets to come to a lesson, there is no obligation on the teacher to make up that lesson and the payment for that lesson is still required.

If a student is sick, we ask that you call/text your instrumental tutor by 8am on the day of the lesson.

When a student is absent on excursions or camps the instrumental teacher will endeavor to make up this lesson at another time **providing that they are given prior notice by the student or their parents.**

Students are expected to attend all lessons and bring all tutor books, music and instruments to each lesson.

FEES

Payment is arranged between the school and the Parent/Guardian adhering to the following rules:

- Parents will be invoiced each term for lessons.
- If your payment is not made on time, lessons will be cancelled until payment is made or you negotiate a payment plan with the school.
- Your Instrumental Music Teacher must follow the above fees and conditions. Please contact the school if you have concerns that these conditions are not being followed.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

- Enrolments are expected for a minimum of one semester (two terms). Should parents decide to withdraw their child from lessons, it is necessary that **four weeks'** notice be given if cancellation is required.
- Cancellation of tuition should be made in writing to the Vocal and Instrumental Music Coordinator. A cancellation form is available on the parent portal and at the back of this book.

It is my sincere hope that at St John's College your child's musical potential will be met with care and be honed with patience and skill.

Mark Winters
Vocal & Instrumental Music Coordinator

Chris Gold
Principal