



# St John's College

## Co-Curricular Music Handbook

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Co-Curricular Music Program 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 co-curricular 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 Co-Curricular 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 Co-Curricular 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 Co-Curricular Music Program Coordinator at any time. The Co-Curricular 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 CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAM

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

Your child's music education 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	GUITAR	OTHER
Violin Viola Cello Double Bass	Flute Piccolo Clarinet Bass Clarinet Saxophone	Trumpet Trombone Euphonium Tuba French Horn	Classical Guitar Acoustic Guitar Electric Guitar Bass Guitar Ukulele	Piano Voice Drum Kit Tuned Percussion

## INSTRUMENT HIRE

The college maintains a selection of instruments available to loan. These instruments have been kindly donated by our College P & F association. Instruments are provided for students in the program (if available) at no additional cost. Please contact the Music Department on [lmnicol@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lmnicol@bne.catholic.edu.au) for details.

## INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

Students joining the Co-Curricular Music Program will receive eight 30-minute lessons per term (thirty-two lessons per year) 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 individual lessons, shared lessons (not available for piano or percussion) and small group (3-5) lessons. **Shared lessons and small group lessons are not always available due to student numbers and lesson preferences.** In the event where there are no other students wishing to join a shared lesson or group lesson, we will contact you to discuss other options.

You may enrol in music lessons via the following online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/4Nj8DiD9xz>

Students will be able to study their chosen instrument and work towards school recitals, AMEB (or similar) examinations and are invited to be involved in the various music ensembles active at the college (See below).

## PRACTICE

**Music is an evolving experience-based skill. Musicians, therefore, need to maintain a regular practice routine.**

To be successful on your 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 not ideal. **Parents should ensure a set routine of practice is established at the beginning of the year.**

One practice routine could resemble the following: *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  
STRINGS ENSEMBLE  
CHAMBER STRINGS  
VOCAL ENSEMBLE  
CONCERT BAND

STAGE BAND  
ROCK BANDS  
FLUTE ENSEMBLE  
SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE

Consistent with the music enrolment agreement, students having lessons at school are required to participate in a school ensemble if a position is available. This enables students to progress on their instrument and allows for several performance opportunities to showcase their talents.

## 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
- 'Giving Back' Concerts at aged care facilities, religious festivals and liturgies
- Small ensemble performances at Year Level Assemblies
- Full ensemble performances at Whole School Assemblies
- 'Music on the Piazza' once a term
- 'Club Bohemia' – The College's major annual music evening
- Summer and Winter Recitals
- School Musical

## 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 email, phoning the College Reception or contacting the Co-curricular Music Program Coordinator on [Tiahna.Davies@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Tiahna.Davies@bne.catholic.edu.au)

## CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT

### ABSENCE

If a student, for any genuine reason such as assessment, illness, or a very important lesson, is unable to attend their instrumental lesson, they **must** advise their music teacher. **Students or parents are required to email their instrumental teacher and the Program Coordinator**. In most cases, with **48 hours prior notice**, an alternative lesson time **can** be arranged. However, if the student does not notify the teacher in advance, or if a student simply forgets to come to a lesson, there is no obligation on the teacher to make up that lesson and the lesson will be forfeited.

**If a student is sick or absent for other reason, we ask that you email the instrumental tutor and Program Coordinator by 7am on the day of the lesson.**

When a student is absent on excursions or camps, the instrumental teacher will arrange 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.**

**You may enrol in music lessons via the following online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/4Nj8DiD9xz>**

### TERM FEES:

Each term fee includes a \$10 resource fee which contributes towards the purchasing and maintenance of music, instruments, equipment, facilities and the facilitation of special events and excursions.

- **\$300: Individual 30-minute lessons**
- **\$220: 2-share 30-minute** (Subject to availability. Not for piano )
- **\$200: Small Group 30-minute lessons** (Subject to availability. Not for piano or percussion)

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

- Parents will be invoiced each term for lessons
- School fee accounts must be current for a student to participate in the co-curricular music program
- 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 music teacher must follow the above fees and conditions. Please contact the Co-curricular Music Program Coordinator [lmcnicol@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lmcnicol@bne.catholic.edu.au) 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 notice be given **2 weeks prior to the end of term** if cancellation is required.
- Cancellation of tuition should be made in writing to the Instrumental Music Coordinator.

*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.*

*Lisa McNicol*  
**Co-curricular Music Coordinator**

*Martin Moloney*  
**Principal**

# MISSED LESSON PROCEDURE

