



ASCOT STATE SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Music education at Ascot is an important part of the school curriculum and has maintained a standard of excellence for many years.

Studies have shown that participation in music has a positive impact on the development of the brain and neuromuscular system. It develops academic and social skills, discipline and commitment which can contribute to emotional development and self-worth.

The personal enrichment experienced by young musicians helps them to understand the benefits of sharing the gift of music with their peers and the intrinsic value of music within society.

Above all, music should be an enjoyable experience; enriching lives and providing stimulation, relaxation and fun!



THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The Ascot State School Music Program provides a wide range of musical experiences for the children, both in the classroom and in learning enhancement opportunities.

Participation in instrumental or choral performance groups encourages the pursuit of excellence and provides extension opportunities for gifted musicians. The performance program allows students to develop their full musical potential.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

A group of dedicated parents conduct fundraising activities such as discos and film evenings. Friends of Music also assist with the organisation of school concerts, school musical, community performances and attendance at Band or Choral Fanfare, ANCA Treble Voices and MusicFest.

The coordinator of the Friends of Music reports to the P&C, and via email, organises helpers for each event.

Parents are invited to join this group by providing their email address to the Music Department or fom@ascotss.eq.edu.au to help maintain this excellent program. The FOM coordinator for 2019 is Alison Lynch.

The Music Program of Ascot is supported and mainly funded by the efforts of the Friends of Music group and any sponsors of the concert program.

CLASSROOM MUSIC

Three specialist music teachers conduct class music lessons for all year levels each week. Prep to Year 4 attend two lessons per week and Years 5 and 6 attend one weekly lesson. The content descriptors are aligned with the National Curriculum and are evident in our Prep to Year 6 Curriculum Framework.

CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

All children are taught to sing at our school and everyone is encouraged to sing in a choir. There is no audition to participate in the choral program. The choirs are an extension of the classroom music curriculum. Children are asked to make a commitment to attend rehearsals and performances. To join a choir, children simply attend the appropriate rehearsal and sign up.

The Ascot State School Choral Program is made up of four choirs:

- Piccolos Choir for Years 1 and 2 and Prep children from Term 3. (girls & boys)
- Ascot Singers Choir for Years 3 (girls & boys)
- Ascot Chorale Choir for Years 4 to 6 (girls & boys)
- Boys Don't Sing Choir for Years 4 to 6 (boys only)

The choral program encourages singers to become better musicians by developing good vocal technique, performance and musicality skills. Participation in the program assists children to develop a sense of self confidence and enrichment as they experience a wide variety of artistic endeavours.

Year 3 or 4 children who commence learning a string, woodwind or brass instrument are expected to participate in choir to enhance their aural development.

Attendance at rehearsal is recorded and the children's participation is acknowledged on their end of semester reports.

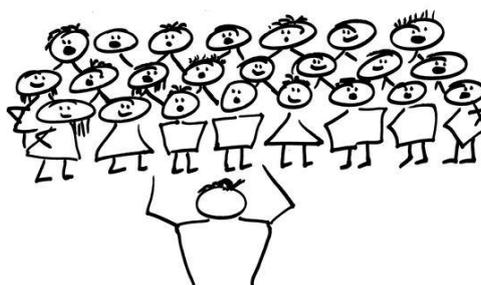
Rehearsals for each choir are:

- Ascot Chorale, Monday 7.30am – 8.50am (Hall)
- Ascot Singers, Wednesday 8.00am – 8.50am (Music Room)
- Piccolos, Thursday 8.15am – 8.50am (Hall)
- Boys Don't Sing Choir, Friday 2.15pm – 3.00pm (Music Room)

Choirs perform at Music on Sunday, school assembly, Carols by Candlelight, Musical Evenings and a variety of community functions.

Each year in November, children from Years 4 to 6 (including choir members) present a musical production.

The Choral Director is Mrs Debbie Daley ddale3@eq.edu.au



ASCOT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Children from Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Program (fees may apply).

It is expected that all Year 3 children who learn an instrument also participate in Choir. The voice is the primary instrument of all musicians and learning to sing in tune reflects in instrumental playing as well as educated listening. Choral development also assists music literacy skills.

YEAR 3 INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Students are offered the opportunity to play Strings, Woodwind and Brass instruments.

Free half hour group lessons are conducted by a Strings Teacher from Education Queensland during the school day.

Woodwind and Brass & Percussion lessons are conducted in small groups by two private teachers during the school day on a rotational timetable. Students receive 16 lessons per semester (8 per term) at a cost of \$272.

In term 3 selected Year 2 students may be offered a place in the Instrumental Program for the following year, subject to the selection criteria and availability of school instruments.

YEARS 4 TO 6 INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Students are offered, after a selection process, the opportunity to play Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion.

Free half hour group lessons are conducted by Instrumental Teachers from Education Queensland during the school day.

Children receiving lessons at school must:

- (a) Participate in a string ensemble or concert band appropriate to their standard.
- (b) Take part in concerts and other school activities.
- (c) Attend lessons and rehearsals regularly as required.
- (d) Keep instrument in good repair.

It is extremely important that parents/guardians arrange to have their child present at such activities – as it is part of being a member of a TEAM. If for some circumstance a child is unavailable, please ensure that the teacher is informed as early as possible so that other arrangements can be made for their part.

Parents must provide tutor books, reeds, strings and other accessories as required by the instrumental teachers.



SELECTION OF STUDENTS

During Term 2 & 3 students will undertake a selection process to determine their aptitude for playing a string, woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. This includes the following criteria:

- Aural tests
- Musical aptitude displayed by the student in class music lessons
- Child's school report
- Consultation with the class teacher/parent
- Physical characteristics (e.g. size of hands, teeth etc.)
- Access to an instrument
 - Student owns an instrument
 - Student hires an instrument
 - Student hires a school instrument for which there are waiting lists of students meeting the above criteria

Following this process, offers to join the Instrumental Program are made to selected students. It is expected that students will remain in the Instrumental Program for a full calendar year.

There should always be consultation with the IM teacher before deciding to leave the program.

(For more information please contact the Music Office.)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HIRE

The school owns a limited number of instruments which can be hired for \$125 per year, depending on availability. Popular instruments such as flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets and violins will not always be available in sufficient quantities to meet student demands; therefore, children must meet the criteria for selection before the instrument can be allocated.

The instrument may be hired for a period of one year. Larger, more expensive instruments may be hired for longer at the discretion of the music teacher. In cases of hardship instruments may be hired for longer than one year depending on availability.

If a school instrument is not available, we suggest the student tries another instrument which is available, or hire an instrument from a music store.

WHERE TO HIRE OR BUY AN INSTRUMENT

There are a number of musical instrument retailers in the Brisbane area that offer quality service and competitive prices. Some of these include:

- Morris Brothers Stafford
- WoodsWind & Brass Deception Bay

- Simply for Strings Red Hill

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT HIRE / MUSIC LEVY

A levy system is in place to help defray the costs of the music program. Costs are incurred in the maintenance, repairs and replacement of school instruments, purchasing band and ensemble music, photocopying and other necessary materials to keep the program going.

- General Subject Levy (everyone pays including students with own instrument) \$45.00 per year

School Instrument Hire:

- School Instrument \$80.00 per year

The Instrumental Loan is for a calendar year. Children and parents must inform administration if they wish to leave the program by filling out a Cancellation of Contract Form (available from the Music Office) and communicating with the Deputy Principal and Principal. There should always be consultation with the instrumental teacher first before leaving the program.

At the end of each year the loan policies for school instruments will be reviewed, especially for any children who wish to change instruments. If parents indicate that they may not be able to afford to buy an instrument after one year they must consult with the administration of the school before a second year of hire is confirmed. If instruments are available they then may be hired for a second year.

SERVICE OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The instrumental teacher or Mrs Daley will identify a problem with an instrument and the instrument is sent for repairs. The cost of repairs is the responsibility of the school unless we identify wilful damage or negligence.

NEVER ATTEMPT TO REPAIR AN INSTRUMENT

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- Instrument
- Tutor Book
 - Tradition of Excellence Book 1 (for Brass, Woodwind and Percussion)
 - Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 (for Strings)
- Band Folder (available from Uniform Shop)
- Pencil and eraser (for band practice)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

(Note: The school provides music stands for lessons, rehearsals and performances.)

ACCESSORIES

WOODWIND:

Flute Cleaning cloth, Cleaning rod, Polish Cloth

Clarinet/Saxophone Cleaning swab, Reeds 4 x Size 2, 1 reed guard, cork grease, a mouthpiece patch, thumb cushion

BRASS:

Trumpet/Euphonium/Tenor Horn/Tuba Valve oil, tuning slide grease, full cleaning kit

Trombone Tuning slide cream, small spray bottle, full cleaning kit

French Horn Cloth, 1 bottle rotary valve oil, mouthpiece brush

STRINGS:

Violin/Viola Rosin, 1 set spare strings (correct size), 2 cleaning cloths, shoulder rest (correct size)

Cello Rosin, 2 cleaning cloths

PERCUSSION:

Drum sticks – 1 pair 5B nylon tip, practice pad, 1 pair mallets

(Note: Students must bring all requirements to each lesson / rehearsal.)

HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

Parental encouragement during the first year is most important and encouraging your child to practise every day and play to you, will mean that progress will be noticeably quicker. Making sounds, holding a new instrument and reading music all take time, but the rewards are many and definitely worthwhile!

Read this with your parents then follow the hints to make your practice time more enjoyable and successful.

1. Find a place where you won't be disturbed.
2. Place your music on a music stand or in a position where you can play comfortably.
3. Start with something you can play well and enjoy.
4. Practice some exercises for a few minutes.
5. Now work on the new piece or the difficult piece from your last lesson.
 - a. Play the piece right through slowly.
 - b. Start at the beginning again. When you come to a difficult bit stop – decide which notes are giving you trouble and practice them slowly over and over again. Don't play them faster until you can do them easily.
 - c. Do the same with any other difficult bits in the piece.
 - d. Play the whole piece through again slowly.
 - e. Play the whole piece through at the proper speed.
6. Now work on a piece you know quite well, but would like to know better. Listen critically to the sound you are making and try to play as beautifully as possible.
7. Reward yourself for your good work by ending with a favourite piece.

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE

1. Are you sure you know the notes and the rhythm?
2. Do you understand the timing? (Take the trouble to work these things out and if you still can't manage ask for help at the next lesson.)
3. Then fill in the practice record for the day.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

The Music Department will send regular notices to parents regarding music rehearsals, events and competitions held throughout the year. In the event a rehearsal or lessons are cancelled, due to staff absence, students will be advised verbally and parents will be sent an email. Information will also be posted on the Ascot State School Facebook page or in the weekly newsletter, The Digest. If students have already arrived at school and there is no rehearsal they should make their way to the covered games court.

CONCERT BANDS / STRING ENSEMBLES



AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Senior Concert Band are conducted in February by the Instrumental Teachers. Requirements for auditions are available from the Music Department. They include scales, a set piece and sight reading.

(Note: All members audition i.e. members from previous years and any instrumental students who meet the requirements)

Results of the audition will be posted on the notice board outside the Music Room. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified personally before the results appear and advised to try again later in the year.

Unsuccessful applicants will continue in Intermediate Band until they reaudit.

SENIOR CONCERT BAND

The Senior Concert Band commences rehearsal in Week 2. All members of the previous Senior Band and invited members of the Intermediate Band rehearse on a temporary basis until the auditions are held.

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 7.45am – 8.50am.

Regular attendance at rehearsals and instrumental lessons is essential. If a student is unable to attend, a note or email from a parent or guardian must be sent to the conductor.

This year the conductor of the Senior Band is **Mrs Rachael Doucet**.

Debbie Daley is the Director of Music and assists with the coordination of the band program. The band plays at school concerts and functions as well as band competitions and festivals.

INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND

The Intermediate Band is conducted by **Ms Kylie Moorhouse** – the Woodwind Teacher.

Rehearsals are conducted on Thursday morning from 7.45am – 8.50am beginning in Week 3.

The Intermediate Band performs at school concerts.

JUNIOR CONCERT BAND

Commences at the end of term 2 or when students are ready.

The Junior Concert Band is conducted by **Mrs Christy Dykes & Mrs Rachael Doucet**.

Rehearsals are conducted on Friday morning from 7.45am – 8.50am.

The Junior Concert Band performs at school concerts.

SHOW BAND

The Show Band is conducted by the Woodwind Teacher, **Ms Kylie Moorhouse**. Rehearsals are held every Monday from 11.00am – 11.45am.

The Show Band performs at school concerts and community functions.

SENIOR STRING ENSEMBLE

The Senior String Ensemble is conducted by the String Teacher, **Mr Mark Boughen**. Rehearsals are held every Thursday morning at 7.30am – 8.45am.

Senior Strings perform at school concerts.

JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE

The Junior String Ensemble is conducted by **Mr Mark Boughen**. Mr Boughen will inform the children of extra rehearsals before concerts.

The Junior Strings perform at school concerts.

BAND / ENSEMBLE MUSIC

Every student participating in a band or ensemble must have a band folder which is clearly named. All music must be returned at the end of each year.

PERCUSSION

In 2019 percussion will be taught by Mr Brenden Schick and Mrs Rachael Doucet.