

Instrumental Music Policy Winthrop Primary School

Rationale

The school recognises the social and learning benefits that flow from studying a musical instrument and facilitates these by supporting the Department of Education and Training's School of Instrumental Music (SIM) program and the School Band Program. It is intended that participation in one of these programs will supplement and complement the class music lessons provided for every child in Years 1-7.

Aims

- To provide equal access to develop skills, knowledge and understanding through instrumental tuition.
- To encourage the development of enthusiasm, confidence, satisfaction and technical ability through practical involvement.

Instrumental Programs

String Program

The String Program is provided by the School of Instrumental Music (SIM), in conjunction with the school. Selected children receive a 30-minute group lesson once per week. Lessons are held in school time by peripatetic teachers who visit the school. Lessons are free, though parents need to provide an instrument. To be accepted into an instrumental music program, students must satisfy the following criteria:

- Willingness to participate in the instrumental music program
- Enthusiasm and aptitude for music as demonstrated through participation in the classroom music program and standardised aptitude testing
- Adequate parental support
- Appropriate physical characteristics.
- Ability to meet the requirements of the program (students have to come out of other classes for their instrumental lesson and must be prepared to do a minimum of 30 minutes daily practice).

No previous musical experience is necessary.

The year levels involved in the string program are

Year 3 - violin (8 children)

Year 4 - 'cello (3 children)

Year 6 - guitar (5 - 10 children)

Once selected, children are expected to remain with the program throughout primary school. If attending a government high school lessons can be continued there. When an appropriate standard of performance is reached, SIM provides ensemble opportunities, in which the students are expected to participate. Currently the orchestral strings have a weekly ensemble which runs for an hour (Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm). The guitar students receive occasional ensemble opportunities. Entry to all ensembles is at the discretion of the instrumental teacher.

The selection process begins in term 4 of the year prior to lessons commencing and is finalised the following term after parent information evenings held by SIM.

Further information about the SIM program can be found at www.sim.iinet.net.au

Band Program

The Band Program is coordinated by the P & C and is administered by a parent committee, who arrange for tutors for the various instruments and the appointment of a band conductor. Children receive a 30-minute group lesson once per week, which may or may not be in school time. They also attend a one hour band rehearsal once per week.

There are no set criteria for entry, though there is an expectation that children will remain in the program until the end of Year 7 and that children will practise their instruments regularly. If students are participating in the SIM String program it is at the discretion of the class teacher, music specialist and Principal to consent to the student participating in the string and band programs. There is an expectation that the SIM string students will continue with this program until the end of year 7.

Parents pay a fee (currently \$100 per term) for lessons and an additional band fee (currently \$35 per semester). Parents must provide an instrument.

No previous musical experience is necessary.

Instruments offered are: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. Children commence tuition in Year 5. The band rehearsals are currently held at the following times:

- Year 5 Thursday 3:00-4:00pm
- Year 6 Wednesday 2:30-3:30pm
- Year 7 Thursday 7:45-8:45am

Parents of Year 4 children receive information about the band program in term 4 and are invited to a parent information meeting at the school later that term. Children may then attend a demonstration session where they can meet the tutors and find out more about the instruments offered.

Parents provide active support of the Band Program through the Band Committee, a sub-committee of the P and C. The Band Committee coordinate uniforms, produce regular newsletters and assist with copying of band music and excursions. Parents of children in the Band Program are encouraged to join the committee.

Participation

The school encourages participation in one of the instrumental programs.

Entry into and continued participation in the instrumental programs offered is at the discretion of School Principal.

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