



Marian Catholic School 2026

Instrumental Music Information

Please read the following information carefully, and refer to the instrumental handbook if necessary before completing the online enrolment form [here](#). This is also available via Compass.

The Marian Catholic School Instrumental Music Program started in 1992 and has nurtured several hundred young musicians since then. Playing an instrument is a rewarding activity in itself, but it also has proven academic and social benefits, and we would like to see as many children as possible take advantage of the opportunities offered here.

Age at Entry

Students may begin lessons on guitar, percussion, clarinet or saxophone when they are in Year 3 or above. It is recommended that flute not be commenced until Year 4 due to difficulties with students' ability to reach the whole instrument. **Should any programs reach capacity, preference will be given first to continuing students provided enrolments have been submitted on time. We then offer spots on an age basis, with preference given to older students.**

Group Size

At Marian, we only offer instrumental lessons in groups of two or three. Students will be grouped based on ability level, and availability of tutors. With each new term, groupings may change depending on your child's skill level and the skill level of others in their group. If this occurs, parents will be notified in writing as the fees charged will be affected.

Fee Structure

\$213.00 a term for a Group of 2 (All instruments)

\$150.00 a term for a Group of 3 (All instruments)

The size of the group for your child will be determined by the tutor.

Payment Conditions

- Fees must be paid **in full by the first week of each term**. Failure to make payment by this time may result in your child being unable to continue in the program.
- As the school employs specialist music tutors to deliver these lessons, students wishing to discontinue must notify the school **in writing at least two (2) weeks before the end of term**.
- Once a student has commenced lessons, **fees for the entire term will apply**, regardless of attendance or withdrawal during the term. If students wish to cease lessons part way through a term, no refund is able to be offered.
- **Please note:** School fees must be **up to date** in order for students to enrol in the Instrumental Music Program.

Parents will be expected to buy some sheet music (e.g. tutor book) and accessories (e.g. tuners, reeds, strings) during the year – expect a total cost of approximately \$50. The other major cost is for the instrument. Please see the page in the handbook pertaining to your chosen instrument for more details.

Lesson Times – Starting and Finishing Dates

Lessons are 30 minutes each week during class time. Teachers try to avoid taking students away from other specialist lessons but **students are responsible for catching up on school work missed during instrumental lessons**. Lesson times may be changed each term so the students are not missing the same subject each term. In this way some compromises may be made. As instrumental teachers are only at the school for a few hours per week, it is not normally possible to make concessions the day after any clash.

Instrumental lessons will run for 32 weeks (**8 weeks per term**) in 2026 and lessons will commence in Week 2 - Term 1, 2026.

There may not be lessons in the week that NAPLAN, Eisteddfod or Camps are held, or in the first or last weeks of term. ***If a child misses a lesson due to a school activity or to teacher absence, the lesson will be made up by the instrumental teacher. Teachers are unable to make up lessons if a child is absent due to illness or holidays, etc, on the day of a scheduled lesson.***

Reports

Progress reports are issued at the end of Semester 1 (end of term 2) and Semester 2 (end of term 4).

Instruments

It is the responsibility of the student to bring their instrument to school for lessons. Parents will be notified at the start of the year the day on which lessons will be taking place. If students do not have their instrument at school on this day, they are unable to participate in tuition effectively. As we are a fairly small school, we do not offer a hire program for instruments. However, information about purchasing instruments/hiring them from external organisations is available in the instrumental handbook.

Practice Expectations

Learning an instrument is a commitment! Please have a discussion with your child about this before signing them up. At the very least, tutors will expect 10 minutes of practice on the instrument three times a week. If students are not practising at home, very little progress is made and this can be frustrating for tutors and students alike.

Ensembles – guitar and woodwind/percussion

All instrumental students are encouraged to participate in an ensemble as soon as they are competent to do so. Participation is free to those learning through the school and is available to any child learning externally for a small fee.

Ensembles normally rehearse for about half an hour each week, either before school, during morning tea or lunch times.

Eisteddfod

The school, at the discretion of the instrumental teacher, enters groups in the Townsville Eisteddfod in September each year. The school does not enter individuals, though the teacher may encourage and assist entries for the students.

We look forward to welcoming your child into the Marian Catholic School Instrumental Program for 2026.

Kylie Helmore
Principal

Katrina Doyle
**Music Teacher/
Instrumental Co-ordinator**