Instrumental Music Program

BE A CLEAR LIGHT

St Clare's
Catholic School



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A very warm welcome to all our students and families involved in our Instrumental Music Program.

Music is a lifelong gift, a universal language that transcends boundaries and touches the hearts of people of all ages. From the rhythm of our daily lives to the melodies that inspire us, music is woven into the fabric of who we are. It has the power to spark imagination, express emotions, and bring stories to life through the interplay of rhythm, melody, and words.

At St Clare's, we are proud to offer a vibrant Instrumental Music Program that nurtures the musical talents of our students. Our program is designed to provide a quality music education tailored to each student's unique learning needs and interests. Whether your child is just beginning their musical journey or is looking to deepen their skills, our program offers exciting opportunities for growth and achievement.

This brochure is your guide to understanding how our music program operates. It contains valuable information to help both parents and students navigate the year ahead. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with its contents to make the most of the musical opportunities available at St Clare's.

Thank you for choosing to give your child the gift of music. Your support is invaluable, and we look forward to a year filled with musical exploration and success.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Carmel Todd
Instrumental Coordinator &
Classroom Music Teacher



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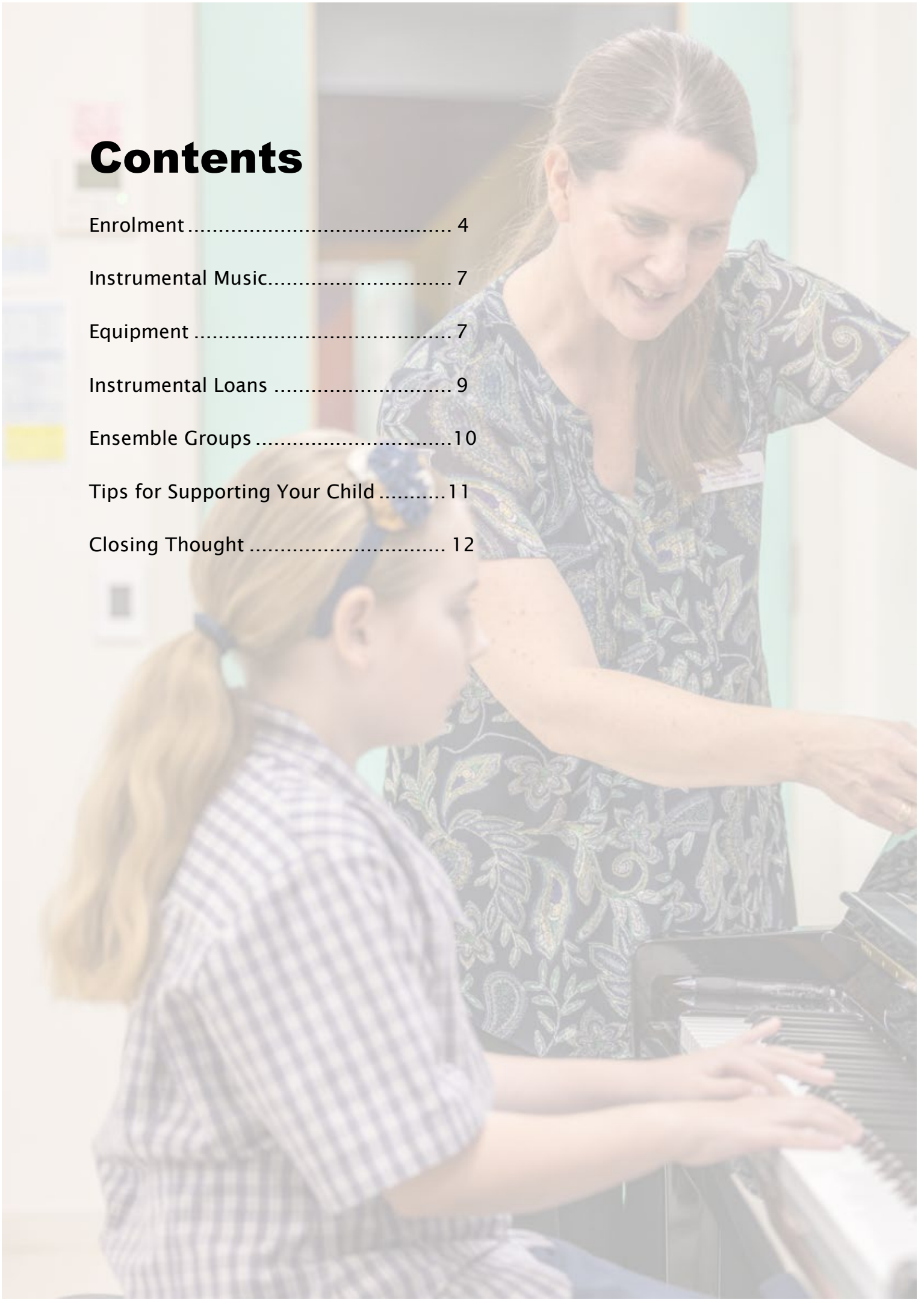
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Enrolment

St Clare's Instrumental Music Program allows students to undertake tuition in the following areas:

Instruments Offered	Group or Individual	Year Level Offered
Classical Guitar	Both	Year 3-6
Violin	Both	Year 3-6
Cello	Both	Year 3-6
Piano	Individual	Year 3-6
Clarinet	Both	Year 3-6
Flute	Both	Year 3-6
Alto Saxophone	Both	Year 3-6

FEES

Fee Structure	
$362 per term	Individual Lessons
$198 per term	Group Lessons
$186 per year	Instrumental Hire (available for a small section of violin or cello instruments only)

Instrumental music fees will be added to your school fees account each term.
Adjustments to the school fees will be made if students don't receive a minimum of 16 lessons per semester.

HOW TO ENROL

Parents can enrol their child in the Instrumental Music Program by contacting our Instrumental Music Coordinator - Carmel Todd via email: ctodd3@stclarestsv.catholic.edu.au or filling out the Instrumental Music Google Form that is sent to parents in Term 4 each year.

COMMITMENT

It is strongly suggested that each student makes a commitment for the whole year. Students cannot withdraw from the program during a term and must make a commitment to the program for a whole semester (eg. Term 1 and 2) This encourages the valuable skill of perseverance through the inevitable challenges of learning an instrument.

Students who are accepted into the Instrumental Music Program will receive a minimum of 16 lessons per semester. Parents can elect their child to participate in group or individual lessons where appropriate. However, enrolment into the instrumental program is subject to staffing and equipment availability. For this reason, the enrolment form provides space for listing 1 or 2 preferences of instruments. All efforts will be made to ensure student preferences are accommodated where possible.

St Clare's students will only be invited to join the program or maintain their enrolment by ensuring **all school fees are current and paid in full.**

All students who are interested in learning one of these instruments will be tested for suitability before the end of the year. If your child is successful in obtaining a position in the Instrumental Music Program, you will receive an acceptance email by the end of the year.

WITHDRAWAL

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from the Instrumental Music Program must submit their intentions in writing to the Instrumental Music Coordinator **2 weeks prior to the end of term.** There is a no refund policy if a student ceases lessons or stops attending during a term or does not give 2 weeks written notice in advance before the end of a term. Parents will be liable to pay the full amount for mid-semester or term withdrawals.

MISSED LESSONS

There may be instances where some lessons are missed due to unavoidable circumstances such as public holidays, teacher illness or school activities etc. If a makeup lesson is provided and the student does not attend without a valid reason, the lesson will be considered forfeited. Students do not receive make-up lessons for when they are away sick or on holidays.

TIMETABLE

At the beginning of the year students will be placed on a lesson timetable for their particular instrument. Lesson timetables will be emailed home through Compass each Semester and displayed around the school (MPH and E Block).

LESSON FORMAT

Classroom teachers and Instrumental Music tutors will liaise to find the most suitable time for each child to attend their instrumental lesson. All students attend a weekly 30 minute lesson during the school day. The lesson will be scheduled at a time that avoids other specialist classes. This is because it is easier for primary students to remember a static lesson time, and easier for classroom teachers to anticipate when their students will be leaving the room.

LESSON ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at lessons and rehearsals is a vital element for success for any instrument. Classroom teachers are aware of the importance and value of the Instrumental Music Program in our school. Teachers will be very willing to help students to catch up on work that they have missed while attending their lesson. From time to time, particularly around assessment periods, students may need to miss their lesson because of an in-class assessment or a very important class activity or whole school activity. Academic achievement is very important at St Clare's and the Instrumental Music Tutors will make every effort to reschedule the student's lesson where possible. Occasionally, lesson times will need to be adjusted due to either foreseen or unforeseen circumstances.

If a student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson for any reason (including school events), please contact the Instrumental Music Tutor directly via email at least 24 hours in advance. With at least 24 hours notice, the tutor may be able to provide a make-up lesson at a mutually agreed time or may be able to offer the time slot to another student. Lessons that are missed without notice are forfeited.

It is appreciated that unexpected things happen. With effective communication from all parties, a solution is often found quickly to ensure students continue to receive high quality education.

Students who have numerous unexplained absences from lessons may, at the discretion of the Instrumental Music Tutor and in consultation with the Instrumental Music Coordinator, be required to forfeit their position in the instrumental program.

Please note - Although every effort is made to support students to attend lessons, ultimately it is the student's responsibility to remember their lesson time.

We realise that young students may need encouragement with ways to remember and some reminding at times. Tutors will call through to their classroom if they have not arrived at the lesson where possible.



TEACHER ABSENCE

If the Instrumental Music Tutor is absent, they will endeavour to reschedule the missed lesson for another time (or day where available). If they are absent over the course of a number of weeks, we will adjust the fees accordingly. You will not be charged for lessons that do not take place. The teacher will make every effort to reschedule the missed lessons for another day, depending on availability. We understand the importance of consistent instruction and we will strive to ensure each student receives the full number of lessons they are entitled to (16 lessons per semester, minimum).

Teaching Staff

Here at St Clare's School, we pride ourselves on the dedication and commitment of our teaching staff in all academic, sporting and cultural areas. Below are the contact details for all members of our Instrumental Music Team. Please feel free to contact them if you have any concerns or questions. For general enquiries, please contact Carmel Todd ctodd3@stclarestsv.catholic.edu.au

Teacher	Position	Email
Mrs Carmel Todd	Instrumental Music Coordinator, Choir and Classroom Music Teacher	ctodd3@stclarestsv.catholic.edu.au
Mrs Joanne McCluskey	Classical Guitar	jmccluskey2@music.tsv.catholic.edu.au
Mrs Joanne Batterham	Piano	jbatterham1@music.tsv.catholic.edu.au
Miss Chloe Sibley	Clarinet/ Alto Saxophone/ Flute	csibley3@music.tsv.catholic.edu.au
Mrs Caroline Lloyd Doolan	Violin/Viola /Cello	clloyddoolan1@music.tsv.catholic.edu.au

Equipment

Overleaf is a list of materials required for each instrument. Individual tutors may provide further details of what is required, especially for continuing students.

When purchasing an instrument, please be mindful that not all brands are of equal quality. Speak to your child's tutor directly or a reputable music retailer for recommendations on brands and models. Cheaply made instruments often end up costing more in the long run due to repairs and can be far more difficult to play/keep in tune.

Second-hand instruments are a great option but exercise caution. Please do not purchase an instrument from eBay as they have often been found to not work correctly and be of poor quality. Especially if purchasing a flute or clarinet, it is recommended that you purchase a well-known brand such as Yamaha or Jupiter as cheaper brands often develop problems in Townsville's warmer climate.

Please contact your child's Instrumental Music Tutor directly at the start of the year with any concerns regarding equipment.

INSTRUMENT	EQUIPMENT
All Students	• A4 display folder • Pencil & eraser • Music stand for home practice only (major music suppliers in Townsville and usually cost around $50) • Bag to hold Methods Book and folder
Violin	• Instrument and bow (sized correctly) • Shoulder Rest (Everest preferred) • Rosin • Soft cloth for cleaning instrument • Methods Book: TBC with Tutor
Cello	• Instrument and bow (sized correctly) • Donut/ Endpin Stopper • Rosin • Soft cloth for cleaning instrument • Methods Book: TBC with tutor
Flute	• Flute • Cleaning cloths x 2 • Flute cleaning rod (usually supplied with instrument) • Methods Book: TBC with tutor • Flute stand (to hold instrument when not playing)
Clarinet	• Clarinet • Pull through and polishing cloth • Cork Grease • 3 reeds (size 1.5 for beginners) • Methods Book: TBC with tutor • Clarinet stand (to hold instrument when not playing)
Alto Saxophone	• All saxophone students (Alto/Tenor) • Pull through and polishing cloth • Cork Grease • 3 reeds (size 1.5 for beginners) • Methods Book: TBC with tutor • Saxophone stand (to hold instrument when not playing)

INSTRUMENT	EQUIPMENT
Guitar	· Yamaha nylon string classical guitar (correctly sized usually 3/4 for beginners) • Footstool • Progressive Guitar for Young Beginners Book 1- (for beginners) • Clip on guitar tuner
Piano	· Piano or keyboard with 88 keys (fully weighted) • Methods Book: TBC with tutor



Instrument Loans

VIOLIN, CELLO, VIOLA, FLUTE, CLARINET AND SAXOPHONE

Hire fees for St Clare's Instruments are $168 per year. Students who wish to hire a school instrument will have the cost added to their school fees in Term One.

Violins and cellos are on a hire basis until your child requires a full sized instrument. We will notify you in advance if your child outgrows the school provided instrument.

Hiring and purchase suggestions:

All instruments can be purchased from local stores such as

- Arties Music – 4779 1300
- The School Locker – 4430 8500

Hiring Options available from the following:

- Hornhire
- Blow
- Studio 19 Rentals – Offer a simple and affordable rental alternative to buying. It gives you the opportunity to rent for as long as you like, return any time after 6 months or apply to buy it to keep forever.
- Musicorp

Please note- Woodwind prices range as follows:

- Flute- $500- $1029
- Clarinet - $600- $900
- Alto Saxophone- $1700

Public rental schemes:
There are a number of instrumental rental schemes available through most retailers such as:

Studio 19 Rentals - Offer a simple and affordable rental alternative to buying. It gives you the opportunity to rent for as long as you like, return any time after 6 months or apply to buy it. For more information visit their website Studio19 Rentals.
Loan instruments are not available for piano or guitar.

DAMAGES / REPAIRS

Violins or cellos for hire are passed from one generation of students to the next, and as such, need to be looked after and cared for. Students are responsible for the basic maintenance and cleaning of their instrument, as explained to them by their Instrumental Music Tutor.

If an instrument is damaged, under no circumstances is it to be sent to repairers by parents or students. The instruments must be returned to their teacher to organise repairs. Depending on the nature of the damage, it may be required for parents/guardians to pay for repairs e.g. if the instrument is damaged through student error. If the problem is simply natural wear and tear the school will be responsible for payment.

INSURANCE

Once instruments leave the school premises they are no longer insured by the school. It is highly suggested that parents ensure the instrument under their own home and contents policy (if applicable). This is particularly important as the replacements can be costly.

Ensemble Groups

One of the greatest joys of learning an instrument is the opportunity to participate in ensembles with fellow musicians. Playing in a group not only enhances performance skills but also fosters team spirit and develops specific musical abilities that are best nurtured in a collaborative environment.

At St Clare's School, we are proud to offer a variety of ensemble groups that cater to different levels of experience and interests. Our current ensembles include:

Choir:
- Senior Choir (Years 5 and 6)
- Junior Choir (Year 4)
- TrebleMakers (Years 4-6 lunchtime rehearsals)

Guitar:
- Advanced Guitar Ensemble
- Beginner Guitar Ensemble

Strings:
- Advanced Strings Ensemble
- Beginner Strings Ensemble

Woodwind:
- Beginner Woodwind Ensemble
- Advanced Woodwind Ensemble

These ensembles provide students with numerous performance opportunities and the chance to develop their musical talents in a supportive group setting. We encourage all students involved in our Instrumental Music Program to join an ensemble and experience the joy of making music together. We are pleased to offer these ensemble opportunities at no extra cost.

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AND COMMITMENT

Participation in our school ensembles is a key part of the musical journey at St Clare's, offering students the chance to enhance their skills, collaborate with peers, and experience the joy of group performance. All students who take woodwind, guitar, or string lessons are invited to join our ensembles, based on their readiness and potential as advised by their instrumental music teacher or the Instrumental Music Coordinator.

For students in Years 4-6 who wish to join our Junior and Senior Choirs, we ask for a commitment for the entire school year. Being a part of our choirs and instrumental ensembles is a privilege, and we believe that consistent attendance is crucial for both individual growth and the success of the group.

To ensure that our ensembles perform at a high level and that all members fully enjoy the experience, we require all participating students and their parents to sign a contract outlining the expectations for attendance and commitment. This agreement helps foster a sense of responsibility and dedication, allowing our ensembles to achieve their full potential.



GUIDELINES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR PARTICIPATION

At St Clare's, we believe that the best results in music come from dedication, commitment, and persistence. To help students build a strong foundation for teamwork and successful music-making, we ask that all members of our music ensembles and choirs follow these important guidelines:

- *Attendance:* Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. They are requested to be seated and ready to play or participate at the designated start time.
- *Active Contribution:* We encourage students to take responsibility for making positive contributions to the ensemble, especially during rehearsals. This includes being attentive, engaged, and prepared to work with others.
- *Preparation:* Students must bring all necessary materials to every rehearsal, including their instrument, music in good condition, a pencil, and an eraser.
- *Communication:* It is essential for students to take note of any important information or notes given during rehearsals and to share them with their parents.
- *Attendance Policy:* If a student misses more than three rehearsal in any term without a valid explanation or prior apology, the conductor may decide to vacate the student's position in the ensemble. Consistent attendance is crucial for the group's success.
- *Health and Participation:* If a student is unable to play due to health reasons but is well enough to be at school, they should still attend the rehearsal. Much can be learned through observation, even if active participation is limited.
- *Notification:* Students must inform the conductor personally if they are sick or unable to attend a rehearsal. Sending a message through a friend is not acceptable.

By following these guidelines, students will contribute to a positive and productive environment that fosters great music making and teamwork.

REPORTING

Instrumental Music Reports are issued in Term 2 and Term 4, coinciding with the academic reports. These reports provide valuable feedback on your child's progress and participation in the program. Parents are encouraged to contact the Instrumental Coordinator at any time to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's development.

BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Research consistently shows that parental attitudes, support, and involvement play a crucial role in a student's ability to successfully learn and enjoy music. These guidelines are designed to assist you in providing the best possible support for your child's musical journey.

Remember, interest and persistence often matter more than talent. With your strong support, playing music can become a natural and enriching part of your child's life.



Tips for Support

Establish set times for your child to practice -
Year 3 to 4 - 10 to 20 minutes daily
Year 4 to 6 - 15 to 20 minutes daily

This relates not just to children beginning to play an instrument, but to students continuing to play through to Year 6 and beyond. A little encouragement can go a long way to helping children enjoy and achieve well with their instruments.

These are available from all the major music suppliers in Townsville and usually cost approx $50.

Make sure it's a quiet place free from distractions.

Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible. Acknowledge Improvement and achievements.

This enables them to achieve something each day.

New concepts learned at school need daily personal practice time by students at home in order for these new skills to be developed and consolidated.

Record them playing and help them to be critical of their playing and to only accept their very best!

This will ensure children remember their weekly lesson times and help them to bring their instrument and music equipment to all lessons.

Take them to concerts and recitals or watch performances together.

Ask them questions about what they love about the class or one thing they learnt or enjoyed.

Take a trip to the local music store to purchase some extra music.

Get to know your child's teacher.

Give them opportunities to perform to family and friends.

Closing Thought

WHY LEARN MUSIC?

At St Clare's we recognise that learning to play a musical instrument is a valuable activity in any student's development. Extensive research shows it is beneficial in the areas of:

- Reasoning ability
- Problem-solving skills
- Mathematics and language performance
- Memory capacity
- Self-confidence and self-discipline
- Social and teamwork skills

As such, we are committed to providing a high-quality instrumental music education to all families.

Music is scientific

It is precise, specific, and demands accurate acoustics. A conductor's score is a complex chart that indicates frequency, intensity, volume, melody, and harmony, all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions that must be calculated, interpreted, and applied instantaneously.

Music is a foreign language

Music notation is a highly developed kind of shorthand based on symbols that represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language known.

Music is history

It reflects the environment and times of its creation, including the cultural and social values.

Music is physical education

It requires exceptional co-ordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, and facial muscles. It also takes extraordinary control of the diaphragm, which in turn uses the back, stomach, and chest muscles.

Music is philosophy

It demands research, contemplation and interpretation. It develops insight and perspective.

Music is art

It allows a human being to take dry, boring and often difficult techniques and use them to create emotion.

Music is the human experience

Music pieces are as complex and varied as life itself. Music inspires thought, reflection and emotion – much like human relations do. Rhythm and tone stimulates moods – such as joy, sorrow or anger. Music relates to us the stories of human experience.

Do not learn music because you expect to major in music or become a professional musician (although you might!).

Do not learn music because you expect to play or sing all your life (although you might and wouldn't that be great!)



"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."- Plato



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