

# Instrumental Music Program 2026



# Introduction

The Education Queensland (EQ) Instrumental Music Program is a comprehensive tuition program in which students learn orchestral or band instruments.

Tuition commences no earlier than Year 3 for strings and Year 4 for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion instruments. In past years, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion tuition began in Year 5, but with the movement of Year 7 to Secondary school in 2015, the program has been made available to students beginning Year 4.

Our music instructors implement an Education Queensland curriculum through small group tuition and ensemble experience.

## The Program

Education Queensland provides an Instrumental Music Program for our school.

The program provides an enriching dimension to the school's music program by:

- Providing opportunities for motivated musical students to develop instrumental skills via weekly group tuition and daily personal practice and
- Providing opportunities for these students to experience playing music in large and small ensembles.

## Staffing

Mrs Melissa McMillan

Classroom Music Teacher and  
Choral Director (Refer Appendix 4 "Choral  
Program")

Ms Ellen Harle

Strings Instructor

Mr Damon Lougheed

Woodwind, Brass, Percussion Instructor

Mrs Katie Lewis

Deputy Principal, Program Manager

## Selection into the Program

The size of the program is determined by EQ staffing levels. This may, unfortunately, mean that not all students who wish to participate are able to do so.

During Term 4, students in Years 2 and 3 are tested to assess musical aptitude.

The following factors are taken into account for selection:

- Results from the Selmer Music Guidance Survey  
The survey covers the three areas of rhythm, pitch and melodic discrimination.
- Class music lesson results
- Work habits and demonstrated responsibility
- Parental support and encouragement of the child

Initial enrolment in the program is for a minimum of one school year.

## Allocation of Instruments

The instruments taught through the program are:

Violin, Viola, Cello	Commencing Year 3
Double bass	Commencing Year 3, 4 or 5 or suitable new students to the school. Selection is heavily dependent on size of child applying.
Tuned and untuned percussion	Commencing Year 4
Saxophone, trombone, trumpet, euphonium, French horn, flute, clarinet	Commencing Year 4

For allocation of specific instruments the following factors are considered:

- The child's preferences and enthusiasm
- The child's physical characteristics and
- The school's need for balanced ensembles

The program allows each participant one entry opportunity ie students are not free to change instruments, apart from the double bass entry point.



## Instruments and Equipment

The school owns a limited supply of instruments which are available for hire. Larger and more expensive instruments, such as the euphonium, French horn and tenor saxophone, cello and double bass are provided by the school and hired to families. The hire loans are renewed annually and some may be extended for the entire time the student is at Brookfield if the student shows commitment to the program and takes care of the instrument.

**Please be aware that all school instruments hired by families are to be itemised under individual House and Contents Insurance.**

Less expensive instruments must either be hired directly from a retailer or purchased. (Refer to Appendix 3 "Guidelines for Purchasing an Instrument")

Percussionists are required to provide basic home practice items but will use school instruments at school.

## Tuition

Students enrolled in the program receive one half hour lesson per week on their instrument during school hours. The lessons are conducted in small groups comprising students of a similar standard. The lesson is timetabled for the same day each week on a rotating schedule, subject occasionally to minor changes. As students progress at different rates changes to the groups may become necessary from time to time.

Students are responsible for:

- Remembering to bring all equipment / materials to lessons and ensemble rehearsals;
- Excusing themselves from their regular class just prior to their lesson time;
- Making up the class work missed;
- Attending their lesson each week (and later on all ensemble rehearsals) even if unable to play because of a minor injury or illness;
- Instrument practice as per the homework schedule;
- Ensuring all notes / notices about music are taken home;
- Taking care of all equipment / materials.

In most lessons the instrumental music teacher will teach the student something new: a note, a musical concept, a particular technique etc. Homework will be assigned which will enable the child to acquire the particular skill in preparation for the following week's lessons.

## Home Practice

**As learning an instrument is a skill based activity a great deal of personal effort is required to achieve a satisfactory level of achievement.** Whilst the teachers present the concept and explain the skills to the students, ultimately it is each child who must work to acquire the necessary skills.

Beginners will be required to practise their instruments for short intervals of time on a daily basis - eg five sessions of 5 minutes per day. Practice times will gradually lengthen in duration so that by the end of the first year students need to be practising 20-30 minutes 5 days per week. A home practice record is given to each child to fill out and have signed by a parent.

### **Parent encouragement and support in:**

- Providing a suitably quiet place to practise;
- Providing a straight backed chair and music stand;
- Establishing a practice time and routine;
- Signing the weekly practise record;
- Checking for any notes / notices
- Meeting ensemble commitments.

**is vital to the success of each child.**

Encouragement and praise provide great support whether to the beginner or to the highly skilled. Research has shown that the single most influential aspect of determining student success in learning an instrument is **ENCOURAGEMENT**.

## Ensemble Rehearsals

All instrumental students are required to participate in school ensembles as soon as they are technically ready. Beginning students will be informed when they are required to attend ensemble rehearsals (generally term 3 for band and term 4 for strings).

Ensembles rehearse before school, ready to play by 7:45am (Strings) or 8am (Band).

## Competitions, Concerts, Camps, Workshops

Our ensembles perform in a range of public contexts occurring during the year. These can include:

- ↗ school assemblies, school Open Days,
- ↗ competitions on weekends,
- ↗ out-of-school-hours concerts
- ↗ performances for the local community.

Families are given as much advance notice as possible of these events. Notification is given in the "Banter" as well as through notes/emails given to ensemble members. Ensembles have 1 - 3 public performance commitments out of school hours each year. **As ensemble playing is teamwork (similar to a sporting team) ensemble members are interdependent, and all are expected to participate in these performances.**

Music workshops, organised by the music staff of local schools, are conducted from time to time. The workshops allow for intensive practice time, give students the opportunity to be part of a larger ensemble, work with other conductors, as well as being able to socialise with students who share musical interests.

## Costs

All program costs, other than staffing costs, are met by the school and the participant's families. The school hires out larger instruments to our students. Instruments such as cello, saxophone and trombone are hired out for 12 months, after which families need to hire or purchase their own. Baritone, Euphonium, French Horn and Double Bass will be hired out for the student's entire enrolment at Brookfield State School.

Associated costs are:

- ♪ *Instrument purchase or hire*
  - Hire of school instrument \$120.00 per year
  - Use of school percussion \$30.00 per year
  
- ♪ *Equipment*
  - Music Stand
  - Incidentals (reeds, strings, rosin, shoulder rest for violas and violins/donuts for cellos)
  - Maintenance equipment (cleaning cloths, mouthpiece, brush, cork grease etc)
  - A Tutor book
  

Refer Appendix 1 "Strings Program Requirements"  
Refer Appendix 2 "Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Requirements"

  
- ♪ *Participation contribution* \$45.00 per year  
(contribute towards musical scores, copyright fees, regional coordination services, competition costs, folder etc)

### Music Folder

All students are given hard cover music folder and sheets of music for ensemble work. The music may be an original or a photocopy.

When issued with these items students are told they are responsible for:

- Keeping the folder in good condition.
- Keeping the music in the folder at all times.
- Keeping the music in good condition (not cut, folded or crumpled).
- Writing on the music only at the direction of the teacher (in 2B pencil only).
- Being responsible for their replacement if they are lost or damaged.

### ♪ Performance Uniform

Senior Ensemble members are required to wear the Performance Uniform for most public performances. The uniform, mostly available through the school comprises:

- White short sleeved business style shirt ] sold by
- Long black pants ] uniform shop
- Plain black socks
- Black shoes
- Black bow tie - boys ]
- Green neck tie - girls ] Allocated to students and returned after each performance.
- Green Cummerbund ]
- Hair accessories black or school green (optional for girls)

## Communication to and from school

### School Newsletters

♪ "The Banter" will keep you informed of any general music news, performances, changes etc.

### Practise Record Sheet

♪ To record what each student needs to practise each week.

♪ To record daily practice time for teachers to check each week.

### Semester Reports

♪ Instrumental teachers report on all aspects of progress.

### Other

♪ General communication is via email. If you wish to receive hard copy of letters, please let the Music Staff know early in 2026.

♪ Staff will inform parents (by phone or in writing) if concerns arise, eg lack of practice, irregular attendance etc.

♪ Public performance details - in particular out of school performances - are sent home via email.

♪ Parents should inform teachers in writing of any absences.

♪ Parents can bring concerns to teachers either in writing or by telephoning the school to make an appointment.

♪ Parents to notify school if child is absent from rehearsal via email to the conductor



## Termination from the Program

**Minimum commitment to the program is 12 months.** Any less than this does not allow the student to progress enough to truly experience learning a musical instrument.

The greater majority of students progress through the Primary School Program and continue on to the Secondary School Instrumental Program. However, occasionally, a student may fail to observe the practice and/or attendance expectations. They will be asked to explain their behaviour and may face the possibility of being excluded from the program.

**Students are only able to exit the program at the end of the year.** Each year, conductors select their ensemble pieces carefully, keeping in mind the group collective experience and abilities, as well as the planned performances. To lose students part way through the year can upset the sound balance of the group and have a negative impact on the group morale. In exceptional circumstances, allowances may be made. Please contact the ensemble conductor to discuss anything that may arise during the year.

Should a student wish to leave the program it is a requirement that the parent/s discuss this with the instrumental teacher and/or the program manager. A letter must be addressed to the Deputy Principal requesting termination from the program. The only juncture for requesting to leave the program is at the end of each year, in order to minimise disruption to ensembles and to avoid leaving vacancies in lesson groups.

## Summary

The Instrumental Program can be an extremely rewarding experience for children. It does require a little hard work and persistence on the part of both parent and child, but is well worth the effort. If there is anything that you wish to discuss with the Music Staff, please feel free to approach them either by telephone, letter or in person and they will be willing to help.



## FAQ for our Instrumental Program

- *Can I enrol my child in the Strings program in Year 3 and change to the Band program in Year 4?* No. Once your child is enrolled in the Strings program, they stay in the Strings program. Students are given one opportunity to join the instrumental program. The number of students that we can take each year is limited by the number of teacher hours that our school is allocated. We want to give as many students as possible an opportunity to play an instrument and switching programs can deny another child this chance. It also has the potential to deplete our number of String players and makes forming an ensemble extremely difficult in later years.
- *Can I be a part of both Strings and Band?* Not usually. We have the capacity for a student to have lessons in only one of the programs (see above). If a child has private lessons on an instrument not learned at school, they are welcome to join the relevant ensemble as well as the compulsory one, but not be included in lessons at school. For example, Emma learns violin at the school and is a member of the Senior String Ensemble. She also has private flute lessons and attends rehearsals/ performances with the Senior Band but does not attend weekly lessons at school on the flute.
- *Can I join the Band or Strings program as a beginner in Year 5?* No. The entry points for the programs are Year 3 for Strings and Year 4 for Band. The exception to this is new students to the school who have not had the opportunity to join previously and these students are only admitted where a vacancy exists due to students leaving the school/ program.
- *My child didn't get the instrument that they wanted. Why is this?* Our instructors try very hard to match physical characteristics of each child with instruments, eg a trombone needs a longer arm reach than a clarinet and the trumpet needs a particular lip movement. We try to take into account your child's preferences which is why we ask you to list no less than 3 choices when filling in your EOI. Please don't list any instrument that you are unwilling to take because your child just might be most suited to that one! Because we run an ensemble based program, we also need to consider the best combination of instruments to form a band or string ensemble. A concert band with 28 flutes and one trumpet isn't pleasant for anyone to listen to!

- *What happens if I forget my instrument on lesson day? Go to your lesson and see your teacher. You can still sit in on the lesson and learn general concepts but obviously won't get the full value of what is being taught that day.*
- *Can I get private lessons outside of school? Yes, yes, yes. You will progress faster than others in your lesson group, but your teacher can put you into a more advanced group with others working at a similar level once you reach this point.*
- *Is joining an ensemble compulsory? Yes. Education Queensland schools run an ensemble based program, which means that students are being prepared to be a member of a larger group of musicians. Playing in an ensemble also gives students a practical opportunity to use their musical skills.*
- *My school owned cello has broken a string. What do I do? All repairs to school owned instruments must be organised by the school. Please don't try to fix it yourself. We will fund any minor / reasonable repairs and get the instrument back to you as soon as possible. In the case of major (catastrophic) damage, we will need to assess repairs/ replacement and discuss this with you (see next question!).*
- *Who insures school owned instruments? Please include school instruments on your home contents insurance. In case of theft/ fire/total write off due to improper use or care, the school will ask you to replace the instrument through your insurance.*
- *Do I need to re-enrol each year? No. We assume that your child will be continuing in the program from year to year unless we hear from you. Please refer to the section "Termination from the Program" on page 8.*
- *What happens when my child goes to high school? The Ed Qld Instrumental Program continues through seamlessly into public secondary schools. Many of our instructors also teach in local high schools. When you enrol your child at high school, you will most likely be asked if you wish to participate in the program. Just say "yes"! Most private schools also have instrumental lessons but these are often under a "user pays" system.*

# APPENDIX 1

## Strings Program Requirements

Requirements for the commencement of lessons January 2026

**ALL** students will need:

- ☞ A 2B pencil
- ☞ Eraser
- ☞ Collapsible music stand for home practice

**AS WELL AS:**

- ☞ Tutor book "Encore on Strings (Music Maestros)" Book 1 (for their instrument)

**IN ADDITION** students will require the following equipment specific to their instrument. Some of this equipment will need to be periodically replaced

**STRINGS:**

- ☞ Shoulder rest (preferably Everest, Kun or Johnson brand) for violins and violas
- ☞ Donut or Black Hole Cello Stop for cellos and basses (to prevent instrument slipping on the floor)
- ☞ Rosin for the appropriate instrument
- ☞ Soft cleaning cloth (duster type or soft old t-shirt fabric)
- ☞ Practice Record Diary (supplied by instrumental teacher)
- ☞ Green display folder containing clear plastic pockets - (to hold sheets of music)
- ☞ Spare strings

**PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS**

## APPENDIX 2

### Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Requirements

Requirements for the commencement of lessons January 2026

**ALL** students will need:

- ♪ A 2B pencil
- ♪ Eraser
- ♪ Collapsible Music stand for home practice

**AS WELL AS:**

- ♪ Tutor book "Standard of Excellence" Book 1 (for their instrument)

**IN ADDITION** students will require the following equipment specific to their instrument. Some of this equipment will need to be periodically replaced.

FLUTE:                    Clean cotton cloth  
                                 Cigarette papers for occasionally drying pads

CLARINET:                5 reeds (size 2) for B flat clarinet  
                                 Cleaning cloth/pull through  
                                 Cork grease  
                                 Cigarette paper for drying pads

SAXOPHONE                5 reeds (size 2 - please specify to the shop whether they are for alto or tenor sax)  
                                 Cotton pull through cleaning cloth  
                                 Cork grease  
                                 Neck strap

TROMBONE:               Mouthpiece brush  
                                 Slide cream  
                                 Slide brushes (two brushes on a very long flexible wire)  
                                 Tuning slide grease  
                                 Soft polishing cloth

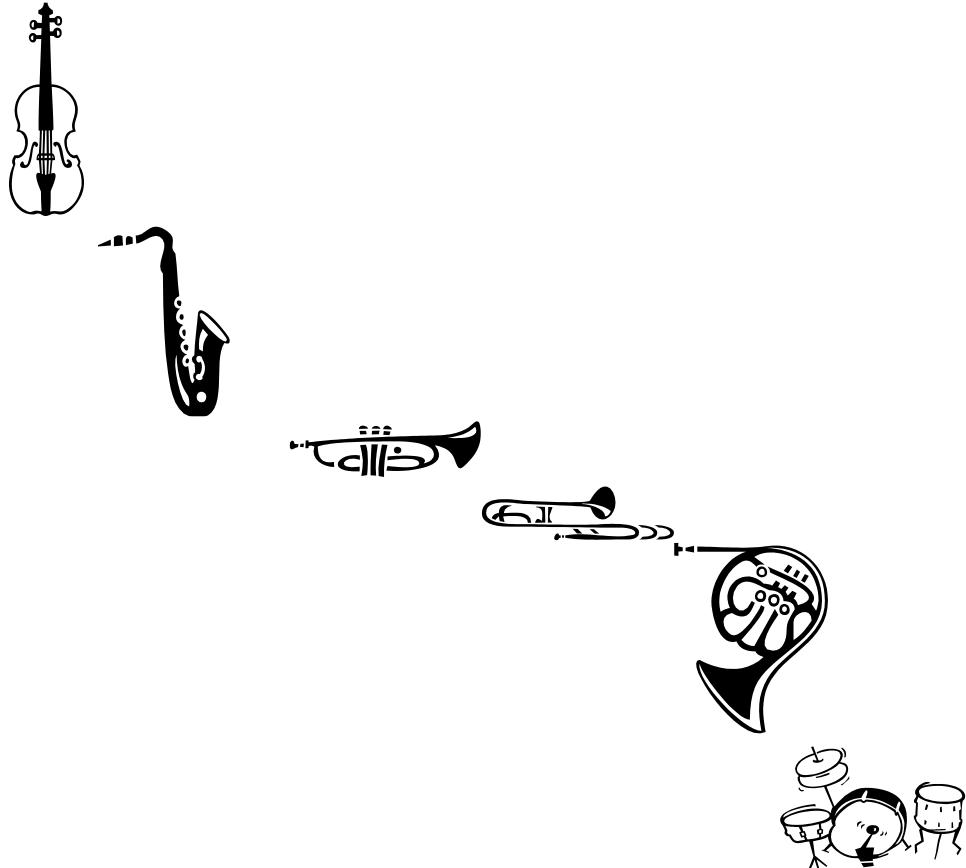
**FRENCH HORN:** Mouthpiece brush  
Long flexible brush  
Rotary valve oil  
Slide grease  
Soft polishing cloth

**TRUMPET, EUPHONIUM/BARITONE:**

Mouthpiece brush  
Valve brush  
Long flexible brush  
Valve oil  
Slide grease  
Soft polishing cloth

**PERCUSSION:** Practice pad (rubber rebound)  
Drumsticks (size 5A wood tip)  
Glockenspiel (small plastic cased type)

**PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS**



## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Guidelines for Purchasing an Instrument**

1. Most instruments are manufactured with a range of models: from student to advanced student, to semi-professional to professional.
2. The 'higher' models always use higher grade materials and more advanced manufacturing techniques, resulting in higher prices. However these instruments have a better tone quality, are easier to play, have greater mechanical reliability and good resale value.
3. It is always best to buy the best quality instrument you can afford: an extra \$200 can make a lot of difference to the playability and to the sound.
4. Always obtain a quote from a couple of sources (music stores, online retailers). They are very competitive and most offer various cash and rent/buy options.
5. Good second hand instruments are often available, but care must be taken when purchasing an instrument privately. Always ask to have the instrument inspected by a reputable repairer as common instrument repairs can range from \$30 to \$250. Many stores have good quality second hand instruments (often 'near new') which are sold with a 12 month warranty.
6. Do NOT buy from a supermarket chain. No exceptions.

The following list contains some suggested brands/models (not listed in any particular order) for various instruments and the approximate base model cost. If your child continues to play in high school and /or attends private music lessons/exams, it is possible that he/she will require a model or two higher than these base models.

<b>FLUTE:</b>	Range from \$500 - \$1100 Armstrong, Buffet, Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Trevor James, Pearl
<b>CLARINET:</b>	Range from \$600 - \$1000 Buffet, Yamaha, Jupiter
<b>ALTO SAX:</b>	Range from \$1200 - \$2200 Conn 21M, Keilworth, Yamaha, Selmer

TRUMPET:	Range from \$650 - \$1400 Conn, Boosey and Hawkes, Besson, Holton Collegiate, B & S, Bach, Yamaha, Jupiter
TROMBONE:	Range from \$750 - \$1200 Conn, Besson, Holton Collegiate, Yamaha, Jupiter
STRINGS:	Violins range from \$200 - \$600 - St Antonio, Ragetti, Sonata, Gliga, Enrico Cellos range from \$900 - \$2000 - Shimro, Enrico, Sonata, Stentor, Andreas, St Antonio

General rule of thumb:

DO NOT BUY AN INSTRUMENT WITH THE BRAND NAME  
OF AN ANIMAL, BIRD OR FISH!

A list of possible suppliers (in no particular order):

Animato Strings	5/789 Kingsford Smith Drive, Eagle Farm	3876 3877
Artie's Music	35/59 Albany Ck Rd, Aspley	3263 7966
Blow Woodwind and Brass	3/149 Musgrave Rd, Red Hill	3367 8776
Brass Music Specialists	90 Appel St, Graceville	3278 1311
Simply for Strings	78 Enoggera Tce, Red Hill	3368 3666
Vivace Music	36 Compton Rd, Woodridge	3090 4268
Vivace Music	62 Pinelands Rd, Sunnybank	3344 1880
Woods Music	4/88 Flinders Pde, North Lakes	1300 378 452



# Appendix 4

## Choral Program

Our school's choral program provides for students from Year 1 - Year 6

- ♪ Junior Choir students - Years 1 and 2
- ♪ Intermediate Choir students - Years 3 and 4
- ♪ Senior Choir students - Years 5 and 6.

Participation is voluntary and no audition is necessary. Our main aim is to involve as many students as possible and to foster a love of vocal music.

We aim to compete in one competition annually, but also to perform regularly on assemblies, for retirement home residents, at school events and are open to invitations from the public. Performances that occur out of school hours are compulsory for students to attend.

Very little is required of participants, except a voice and a willingness to sing out. Senior Choir members need a performance uniform as outlined in this booklet. Many students will already have one for Band/Strings Ensemble.

There is a participation contribution for members of the Intermediate and Senior Choral groups.

This contribution assists in the on-costs of:

- ♪ Music purchase
- ♪ Competition fees
- ♪ Accompanist fees

Rehearsals take place either before school or in lunch times. As we only rehearse for 45 minutes each week, punctual arrival is essential to our progress, as is regular attendance. At the start of each year, interested students are asked to attend practices for a trial period of 6 weeks, during which time they can speak to the teacher and then choose not to continue. After this trial period has elapsed, attendance is compulsory and termination from the program is as for the instrumental program.

Brookfield has a history of strong choral work and we would like to see this continue and grow over the coming years.

## Appendix 5 SAMPLE ONLY - DO NOT COMPLETE

### Brookfield State School Musical Instrument – Loan Agreement

Name of Student	Sample Student
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#### Description of Instrument

Type	
Brand	
Serial No	
Accessories	

The above instrument is issued on loan to the student subject to the following conditions:

1. The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person.
2. Every care and attention must be given to the instrument during the period of the loan.
3. The instrument is returnable upon demand at any time for inspection, repair, adjustment or for any other cause.
4. The instrument must be returned promptly for any repair or adjustment which may be required through normal wear and tear.
5. In the event of accidental loss or damage, the circumstances must be immediately reported to the school.
6. If, in the opinion of the teacher of the instrument, a student is not carrying out reasonable practice or shows little ability with the instrument, the period of loan may be terminated.
7. An instrument hire charge of \$120 is required of every student loaning a school instrument. This charge is to contribute toward repairs, ongoing maintenance and updating instruments. The school will require the loan agreement and the \$120 before issuing an instrument.
8. In the event of loss or damage due to carelessness the students family is required to make recompense.
9. All school instruments are to be included under individual family's House and Content Insurance.

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Signature of Parent

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Date.

Brookfield State School -**SAMPLE ONLY. DO NOT COMPLETE**

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO SCHOOL WITH \$120 PAYMENT. THANK YOU.**

Name of Student	Sample Student
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**Description of Instrument**

Type	<i>Squiffenflugelenhorn</i>
Brand	<i>Noisy-as-can-be</i>
Serial No	000-000-000
Accessories	<i>Valve oil, ear muffs, lots of patience</i>

I authorise my son/daughter to proceed with the loan of the instrument described above and undertake to exercise reasonable supervision of its use. I agree to the conditions of loan as stated.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_