



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE

91 Sparks Road, Warnervale NSW 2259 PO Box 4367, Lake Haven NSW 2263  
P 02 4392 9399 F 02 4392 9499 E [smccw@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smccw@dbb.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.mccwdbb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mccwdbb.catholic.edu.au)

31st January 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the first weeks of each new year, our Instrumental Tuition program begins to take shape. This program provides fantastic musical opportunities for our students and for some, is just the beginning of a life-long love of music.

I hope you find the answers to any questions or queries you have regarding your child's enrolment in this program within this document. I have attempted to keep this quite simple, so if you find that you still have unanswered questions, please feel free to contact me at the school on 02 7256 1111, or for a faster reply, via email at [shane.lebreton@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:shane.lebreton@dbb.catholic.edu.au).

Due to the differences in timetabling and educational needs of both the Primary and Secondary schools, we approach the tuition timetabling quite differently for each. Therefore, the information provided for Primary is somewhat different to the Secondary information, so please ensure you have the correct information sheet attached to this letter.

If you intend to enroll your son/daughter in any kind of instrumental tuition, the first thing you need to do is **complete the contract via [this Google Form](#)**. Once we have received this, we can add your son/daughter to the timetable, or onto the waiting list if there are no available times. It should be noted that this is a first in – first served process. Of course, if a student wants to re-enrol from 2023, they will have the option to continue their tuition, but once again, the contract needs to be completed and returned immediately.

Please read through the information on the following pages and as I mentioned earlier, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. As I am sure you understand, there is a lot of organisation involved in getting these lessons to run smoothly. I ask for your patience in the initial weeks of setting up the timetable, but the work is well and truly worth it! I look forward to the coming year and I am very pleased to be able to offer your son/daughter this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Shane LeBreton  
Music Tuition Coordinator

# **PRIMARY INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **How are the lessons timetabled? Will my child miss out on important class work?**

Generally, primary students have a permanent lesson time each week. This time will be worked out with the classroom teacher to ensure the student does not miss vital work. It enables primary students to keep to a routine, and minimises disruption to their class work. On occasion, this lesson time needs to be changed due to College events such as carnivals etc. It is important that you check the timetable that is emailed to you each week for any of these changes.

Students are expected to be punctual and take responsibility for remembering their lesson time. This includes reminding their classroom teacher that they need to attend their lesson and arriving 5 minutes before their scheduled time. If a student is late to their lesson every effort will be made to locate them, but if they've forgotten their lesson and could not be found then that lesson is forfeited.

### **Which instrument should my child learn?**

Your child has been exposed to a range of instruments in their classroom Music lessons so the instrument they want to learn is really up to them. If they express an interest in a particular instrument then that is usually the instrument to go with. Like anything, a good teacher and home support is what really counts.

### **Can my child be too small to learn some instruments?**

Yes. There are some instruments that may not be suited to particular students, however, their tutors will advise them if it is not suitable and an alternative can usually be found. Guitar and violin are two examples of instruments that require a conversation with the tutor, before deciding on which size instrument to use.

### **Can my child “try out” the instrument before they begin?**

Sharing instruments is never advised, however, if you are purchasing an instrument, most shops on the Central Coast allow you to take your child in so they may test a few to see which one they like. If they are hiring an instrument this is not possible.

### **Are there instruments that are better suited to boys or girls?**

**Absolutely not!** It is always a shame when labels are given to particular instruments. If your son wants to learn the flute then let them go for it – some of the most highly paid flute players are male.

## Do I have to purchase an instrument?

No. However, through tried and tested experience the students who own their own instrument are more committed, take better care of them and continue lessons far longer than students who hire instruments. There are many companies that offer instrument hire, below is just one example.

(Fair Winds Brass and Woodwind)

<http://www.musiccorp.com.au/>

## What happens if my child is unable to attend a scheduled Music lesson?

You are to call the tutor directly before 8:30am or you will still be charged for the lesson and no make-up lesson will be made. If sufficient time has been given, the tutor may be able to provide an alternative lesson time to make up for the missed lesson, however, this may not always be possible. Please also inform your tutor of any school organised events that will disrupt the lesson, our tutors are private contractors and will not always be aware of all the events happening at the school. This will allow us to reschedule lessons ahead of time and minimise missed lessons and the need for 'makeups'.

## Where are the lessons held?

The lessons are held in the Creative Arts block. There are several practice rooms for instrumental lessons and students are right across the hall from the Music rooms.

## Private or group lessons?

Piano lessons can generally only be offered privately. However, all other instruments can be in small groups (maximum of three, two is ideal). It is often a good idea for beginning students to form a small group in which to attend lessons. If you intend to do this, please make sure you fill out the appropriate information in the Google Form. Group lessons are also a more affordable option, being almost half the cost.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Cost:

Tutors set their own prices, so it varies between them but as a general guide:

Private lessons: approximately \$35.00 - \$40 for half an hour

Shared lessons: approximately \$25 per student for half an hour

***This will be invoiced directly from the tutor and will be paid directly to the tutor. No money for lessons will be paid to the school.***

The payment for lessons is as follows:

**First term:** - To be paid by Friday Week 3, Term 1

**All subsequent terms** need to be paid prior to the commencement of the term. Tutors will provide invoices to students in the last week of each term for the following term.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *If a student is more than two weeks behind in payments, they will be removed from the tuition program and replaced with another student. This is how our tutors make a living and it is vital that they know they will be paid.*

## **Can my child stop lessons at any time?**

No. If your child does not wish to continue lessons you are required to give a minimum of 3 weeks notice. If students do not attend their scheduled lessons and notice of cessation of lessons has not been given, payment for the full term is still required.

## **When will lessons begin?**

It is hoped that lessons will officially begin at the start of Week 3, Term 1. Please be aware that there is a significant amount of organisation in setting up the timetable, so your patience in the first few weeks is appreciated. The best thing you can do to speed up the process, is sign and return the contract and information form as soon as possible. Lessons can often start a little sooner, or a little later, depending on the tutor.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**Students are expected to participate in AT LEAST ONE of the three tuition concerts planned for the year.** The dates for these concerts are currently being arranged and they are held in the McCormack Theatre, here at MacKillop. They are usually in Week 5 of each term, on a Wednesday afternoon.

## **What now?**

Fill out the Google Form linked above, as soon as possible . Hopefully a tutor will be in contact with you shortly.

Thank you for reading through all the above information as music lessons are such a wonderful opportunity.