



Mooloolaba State School

Instrumental Music Program Policy

Mooloolaba State School offers two diverse instrumental music programs: **Strings** and **Woodwind/Brass/Percussion (Multi)**. Each program is delivered by visiting specialist instrumental instructors who conduct weekly small group lessons in addition to larger ensembles/bands for students who have attained more advanced skills.

Strings Program: Eligibility – Years 3 - 6

All students in years 3-6 have the opportunity to be selected in the instrumental strings program. The recruitment process begins with an performance/demonstration by the strings teacher and/or current strings students. Following this, an expression of interest note outlining the program and its requirements is distributed to all year 2's & 3's (other grades can collect this note from the office or classroom music teacher). This part of the recruitment process generally takes place early in term 4.

Once an expression of interest note has been received by the strings teacher, a suitability process takes place. This process may involve testing for musical aptitude and instrument suitability. Recommendations from the classroom music teacher (based on classroom music results and effort) and class teacher are also taken into account and form an integral part of the selection process. Priority is given to students in younger grades who are not yet eligible for the **Multi** instrumental program (see below).

Woodwind, Brass & Percussion (Multi) Program: Eligibility – Years 4 - 6

Students have the opportunity to learn a woodwind (flute, clarinet), brass (trumpet, trombone, and euphonium) or percussion instrument from year 4 onwards. Like the strings program, the recruitment process begins with the instrumental instructor and/or current students in the program providing a demonstration/performance of the available instruments. Following this, interested students receive an expression of interest note outlining the program.

Once an expression of interest note has been received from students/parents, students begin the audition process with the instrumental teacher testing each child's suitability for the various instruments available. This practical assessment is in addition to recommendations from the classroom music teacher and class teacher both of who are integral parts of the selection process. Priority is given to students who have not previously participated in instrumental music (i.e. the strings program). This includes students who have enrolled at our school after year 3 and have not had the opportunity to be selected for the strings program previously.

Dual Participation

Generally speaking, students only have one opportunity to be involved in either the Strings or Multi program. An allowance may however be made for exceptional students who exhibit a very high level of musical ability. In such cases, a student may have the opportunity to learn a second instrument and be involved in both instrumental music programs (e.g. cello and clarinet). Such a scenario will be done in consultation with parents, but ultimately is at the discretion of the instrumental teacher and school administration.

It must be said that students wishing to participate in both programs need to understand the commitment required and appreciate that both instruments studied would need to receive a

relatively equal amount of attention and practice. It is also important to consider that students are withdrawn from class for instrumental music lessons (approximately 30 minutes per week). If two instruments are being studied, students may miss important work given they would need to be withdrawn twice weekly.

Costs

Once accepted into either instrumental program, students are required to pay a yearly instrumental levy of **\$130** which includes the loan and use of a school-owned instrument. Music books and consumables (such as strings, rosin, grease etc) are required to be purchased by the students and their family. The levy for students who own their own instrument is **\$80**.

Instrument Purchasing

It is an expectation that after **12 months** participation within either instrumental program that a student acquires their own instrument. The rationale for this is that it allows in-coming students the following year to receive a school-owned instrument. An exception to this rule may apply when the school instrument is one of considerable expense (such as a double bass, euphonium etc). Students continuing tuition on one of these more expensive instruments may be given an additional 12 months loan. The relevant instrumental teachers are available to assist students and parents in the decision making and purchasing process. Please consult the instrumental teacher first if possible as many parents with good intentions have purchased cheap instruments from various on-line retailers that are extremely poor quality and non-repairable.

Switching Programs

Students who have previously been in one instrumental program at Mooloolaba or another school but discontinued for whatever reason may have the opportunity to join another instrumental program (e.g. move from strings to brass). In cases such as this however, students wishing to have “a second bite of the cherry” are required to enter the program with their own instrument. At Mooloolaba State School we believe in a fair go for everyone and examples such as where a student “drops out” of one program (e.g. strings) only to re-enter another (e.g. multi) can deprive first-time students of an instrument. Any instance of program switching will be considered on a case by case basis but the underlying aspect of “fairness” will be the guiding principle.