



INSTRUMENTAL LESSON HANDBOOK

**Strong
Minds
Gentle
Hearts**



Welcome

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Head of Music

Research has shown the immense value of music education. It improves working memory, phonemic awareness, development of complex spatial skills, impulse control, and auditory processing (which assists reading and comprehension skills), as well as protecting our brains from ageing. With this myriad of benefits, why wouldn't you learn an instrument?

The Saints Music Program is integral to the College's cultural life, offering diverse musical opportunities for students in Years 7 to 12. Over 90 years, the program has led boys' music education in Far North Queensland, encompassing performances, tours, musicals, and festivals.

St Augustine's combine with St Monica's College to provide a large ensemble program for our students. The ensembles rehearse weekly and perform every term. The combined colleges also work together on musicals, tours and large project works annually.

Our co-curricular program involves more than 100 boys from all year levels and comprises

two areas: ensembles and instrumental tuition. It is an inclusive program and all students are encouraged to be involved. Selected students in this program provide music for Masses and liturgies through orchestra or choir. Saints is proud of its culture of sacred music and provides regular performance opportunities for students.

The co-curricular program runs in conjunction with an extensive and nationally recognised curricular music program, also involving many students from all year levels. Groups in the College have worked with national and international artists: James Morrison, Busby Marou, Paul Kelly and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra to name a few. Past students have also been nominated for multiple Queensland Music and Aria awards.

Many Old Boys perform, tour, record and compose professionally, both nationally and internationally. Their budding musical careers were nurtured at Saints, and we aim to do the same for today's students.



INTRODUCTION

Music is an integral aspect of the curricular, co-curricular, liturgical and cultural life of Catholic schools.

Students in classes enjoy listening, composing, performing and developing their skills through the study of a wide range of repertoire.

The instrumental program offers tuition in stringed instruments, woodwind, brass and percussion. Students attend weekly lessons, either individually or in a small group.

Instrumentalists are expected to join the ensemble program, participating in performances, competitions and camps where appropriate. Bands, ensembles and choirs provide experiences for students at every level of musicality and skill.

AIMS

- > To provide opportunities for students to begin musical involvement in primary through to secondary schools in the Cairns Diocese.

- > To enhance links and the sense of association between the central Catholic secondary colleges of Cairns and their traditional feeder schools.
- > To expand opportunities in the performing arts within Cairns' Catholic schools.
- > To provide the best quality music education program for all students at St Francis Xavier's School.



MUSIC DESIGNED FOR ALL

LESSONS

- > Students enrol in the program using the form at the back of this handbook at the beginning of every year.
- > A weekly lesson is scheduled during the school day.
- > Lessons are rotated so that students don't miss the same subject every week.
- > Lessons are 30 minutes and are offered as individual or in small groups.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

St Francis Xavier's School encourages all music students to participate in co-curricular music (ensembles), which aims to involve them in our musical culture and develop skills transferable to all aspects of life.

Every student has the opportunity to learn an instrument, with tuition provided by a number of instrumental staff and specialist tutors.

INSTRUMENT HIRE

Instruments can be hired or purchased through a number of different retailers. Details available from music tutors or from the music department.

INSTRUMENTS OFFERED

The string tutor teaches violin, viola, cello and double bass offering students experience in a variety of genres, through group tuition as well as ensembles.

The Wind & Percussion Department offers flute, oboe, clarinet, alto and tenor sax lessons along with trumpet, french horn, trombone and euphonium/baritone. Lessons are offered as a group with opportunities for further ensemble participation. Percussion is offered as a combination of tuned and untuned percussion as well as drum kit. This sets up students with a range of skills, which can be applied to all areas of music, including the ensembles.

Charges will apply for lessons that are missed without advance notice.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- > Attend weekly lessons.
- > Practise regularly.
- > Be punctual for scheduled rehearsals and lessons.
- > Catch up on all work missed in class during your music lesson.
- > Most importantly, students are to notify staff/music teachers 24 hours in advance where possible if their lesson time is not suitable or they will be absent, otherwise fees will be charged.
- > It is the student's responsibility to reschedule a suitable lesson time with the teacher.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- > To encourage and support your child in his music.
- > To ensure regular practice is done.
- > To make every effort to be punctual for rehearsals, playouts, etc.
- > To pay for lessons each term.
- > To notify the Music Department/music teacher in advance in writing that a student will be absent or ill.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- > Students enrol in the program using the form at the back of this handbook at the beginning of every year.
- > A weekly lesson is scheduled during the school day.
- > Lessons are rotated so that students don't miss the same subject every week.
- > Lessons are 30 minutes each and are offered as individual or small groups.

ACCOUNTS

- > Students enrol for a year.
- > Fees are charged by the term (8 weeks), in advance.
- > Lesson charges are from \$40.00 per 30 minute individual lesson and \$22.50 per student 30 minute group lessons of two and \$15.00 per student half hour group lesson of three or more.
- > Accounts are paid online through trybooking with the link sent each term via email.
- > Every attempt is made to adjust charges on the next term's account for lessons owed or credited for notified absences.

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WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

- > Students are expected to enrol for the year, but may withdraw at the end of a term only.
- > Three weeks' notice to withdraw from lessons must be given in writing before the end of the term.
- > Lessons are charged by the term - usually in advance.



INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT

WOODWIND

Flute
Clarinet Oboe
Alto Sax
Tenor Sax

BRASS

Trumpet
Trombone
Euphonium/
Baritone
French Horn

STRINGS

Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

PERCUSSION

Drum Kit

REPORTING

- > Good communication is valued within St Francis Xavier's music program.
- > Semester reports will be prepared by each music teacher to keep parents informed about their child's progress.
- > Parents are invited to contact staff or music teachers via email with any concerns.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

- > There is no charge to participate in ensembles.
- > The ensembles perform regularly in the local community and your support may be needed by being part of the audience.

St Francis Xavier's School offers an ensemble-based program, that provides opportunities for students to be involved in a wide variety of instrumental groups. Ensembles operate within the program each week and cater for a range of students at a variety of ability levels. The instrumental ensemble program is available to all.





ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S SCHOOL ENROLMENT FORM 2024

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student's name

Year level

Boarder:

Yes

No

Parent's name

Address

Postcode:

Home

Work

Mobile

Email

Beginner

Currently playing

No. of years

Level of achievement

Please specify type of instrument

Individual lessons

Group lessons

STUDENTS MUST REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST ONE TERM

PLEASE NOTE: Three weeks' notice before the end of the term is required for students withdrawing from the program, otherwise pro-rata fees will be charged.

We have read the Instrumental Lesson Handbook, agree to the responsibilities, and would like our child to join the Instrumental Music Program

Parent's signature

Student's signature

Date

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Mrs Cherie Spannenburg, St Augustine's College

Phone: 4052 9164

Email: cspannenbu@cns.catholic.edu.au

PLEASE NOTE: Music tutors, not the College invoice for music lessons.