



SORRENTO PRIMARY SCHOOL



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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

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Information Booklet 2023

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Your decision to provide your child with a quality music education is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement. Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music.

This booklet is designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than natural talent. With the right support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Presently we have private teachers offering lessons to children during school hours in the following instruments: Suzuki piano, Suzuki violin, guitar and drums. We are hoping to get enough people interested to begin lessons in flute, saxophone and clarinet this year. Our instrumental teachers are specialists in their area and are highly professional.

Instrumental lessons are run on a private basis. Instrumental teachers set their own fees, do their own billing and collect their own fees. All lessons are individual.

The school provides a space to work in, provides some instruments for hire and timetables for students. Most lessons are on a rotating basis.



BENEFITS

For your child:

Music participation enhances problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, co-ordination, memory skills, self-confidence and esteem, concentration, poise and much more!

For your family:

A child's music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including:

- Musical event attendance.
- Family music-making: performing for and with, family and friends.
- Learning about the lives of composers and the cultural heritage of Western civilization.
- A sense of pride and accomplishment for the whole family.



HOW YOU (THE PARENTS) FIT IN

Your support is a key element in your child's success.

Schedule Practice Times:

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time.

Help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place in which to practice.
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible.
- Scheduling a consistent, daily time for practice.
- A daily practice plan sheet may be of value (see page 07).

What to do:

To give your child the best possible support, you should:

- Offer compliments and encouragement often.
- Encourage your child to talk with you about his or her lessons.
- Allow your child to play many types of music, not just study pieces.
- Listen to practice and acknowledge improvement.
- Help your child to build a personal music library - band sheets, exam and study pieces and music for fun.

What not to do:

Progress will be greatly enhanced if you...

- Don't use practice as a punishment.
- Don't insist your child play for others when they don't want to.
- Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less-than-perfect playing.
- Don't apologize to others for your child's weak performance.
- Don't expect rapid progress and development in the beginning.

If your child loses interest... Don't panic.

- Discuss the situation with your child to find out why their interest is declining.
- Talk to the tutor to see what can be done to rekindle enthusiasm.
- Encourage your child to attend lessons for an agreed period of time.
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support.



TUTORS

We are very proud of the quality of tutors who instruct our students each week in the program.

Lesson times and costs:

Instrument	Teacher	Lesson Times	Fees / Lesson	Days	Room	Preferred Start Age	Group Lessons	Room
Suzuki Piano	Paula Lesse	30 mins	\$45	Fri	Instrumental Room	Year One	No	
Suzuki Violin	Paula Lesse	30 mins	\$45	Fri	Instrumental Room	Year One	TBC	Music Room
Suzuki Guitar	Paul Newnham	30 min	\$42	Thu	STEM Room	Prep	TBC	
Drum	Noel Tenny	30 mins	\$38	Tue	Music Room	Grade 2 or 3	No	
Guitar	Janece Alexander	30 mins	\$38	Tues Wed	Quiet Room	Grade 3	No	

This information was correct at the time of printing. Most lessons are rotating.



Band

All children who study within the program are expected to participate in band when they have achieved an appropriate standard.

Band Rehearsals are held in the Music Room, on Wednesdays before school from 8:30 - 9:00am and at 2:00pm on Thursdays.



PRACTICE TIME

Use of a practice plan sheet can assist motivation if filled in regularly over a short period such as a month. Copy this sheet, fill it in daily, take it to lessons each week for praise from the tutors and listen to things improve.

Practice plan sheet (monthly)

Student's name: _____

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly	Signature

Practice Goals

It is important to have definite goals in mind for each day's session. A typical half hour session (recommended for the average beginner) might be broken down as follows:

Minutes	Material	Goal
3-5	Long tones; easy drills	Warm-up of embouchure or fingers
10	Familiar exercises	Improvement of finger movement, rhythm and overall fluency
10	New Material	New notes, new rhythms and articulation, key signatures, increase range
5	Personal Music Choices	Pure enjoyment of playing music



LESSONS & HIRE

Instruments available and hire fees

What instruments does the school hire?

The school owns a number of instruments which are hired to parents for a fee. Fees are used to renew, repair and clean instruments. Instruments such as flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets and trombones are sent over the summer holidays to be professionally cleaned and repaired. Parents who wish to hire instruments will need to sign a hire agreement at the beginning of the hire period.

They will need to pay annual hire fees and a bond which will be returned when the instrument is no longer needed (as long as the instrument is in good condition). These fees are set out below,



Instrument	Number	Comments	Bond	Annual Hire
Flutes	11	4 with curved heads	\$100	\$170
Clarinets	5		\$100	\$140
Saxophones	4		\$100	\$200
Violins	10	Of various sizes, no full sizes	\$50	\$80
Drum Kits	2		\$100	\$120
Guitars	6	Of various sizes	\$30	\$60
Trumpets	2		\$100	\$120
Trombone	1		\$100	\$120

Lessons

- Lesson fees are to be paid by the term and always in advance, except by special arrangement with the tutor. Generally Instrumental teachers will send home a bill for the term at the first lesson. This should be paid by the following week or by special arrangement with the teacher. Method of payment will be at the teacher's discretion.
- Fees need to be paid for the term. If a student decides to finish before the end of term, they will be expected to pay for lessons for the entire of the term.
- Missed lessons must be paid for unless the tutor receives adequate notice of medical reasons or an extended holiday.
- Missed lessons appropriately notified will be credited or made up in other weeks.
- Keep your instrumental teacher's telephone number handy.
- A student two weeks in arrears may forfeit their place in the program.
- Lessons are not held on curriculum days or public holidays. When a tutor is to be absent your child will be notified as soon as possible.
- A parent is expected to attend Suzuki lessons.

Replaceable items and accessories

Reeds — Clarinet \$1.60

Reeds — Saxophone \$2.40

Maintenance of instruments

A regular daily check of your instruments can save costly maintenance, repair bill and time without an instrument to play. Learn what to look for. The hiring fee covers maintenance due to normal wear and tear.

All instruments will be collected during the last week of term four, for maintenance by our repairer over the summer break.

Damage

- This could be very expensive so it is a good idea to develop the habit of putting your instrument in its case when not in use.
- Damage to an instrument through dropping, sitting on or letting someone “have a go”, etc. must be paid for by the hirer.
- Do not take instruments into the school yard to play — this is dangerous for the instrument and dangerous for you.
- Take instruments home each night — don't leave them in a classroom as they are out of your sight but still your responsibility.



Behavior in lessons

During lessons a student is expected to treat the tutor with respect.

Spectators at lessons

Parents are always welcome to sit in on lessons and are encouraged to discuss progress briefly each week. Unsupervised siblings are never to be in the room. (That supervision is not the music tutor's responsibility).

Delivery and collection of students

A music tutor supervises those children actually engaged in a music lesson for the time of the lesson. During school hours children should make their way to their lesson without being called. If a child forgets to come an announcement will be made (if at recess) or the tutor will collect the child from their classroom.

For lessons out of school hours

A student's welfare is the parent's or guardian's responsibility prior to and after the lesson, when lessons are held out of school hours. We strongly recommend that children are escorted to and from lessons. It is a useful double check in case of a tutor's late arrival.

Arranging hire and or lessons

If having read through this guide, you wish your child to participate in the program please fill out the attached form and hand into the office.



SOME COMMON QUESTIONS

How does the rotating timetable work?

As children are withdrawn from classes to attend lessons, using a rotating timetable means children will not miss out on the same type of lessons each term. Ideally your child's lesson may start at 11am, then the following week 11:30am etc. In terms one and four the instrumental timetable is arranged so children will not miss any swimming lessons.

How can my child get lessons?

Any child enrolled at Sorrento Primary School can go on the waiting list for lessons in any instrument, as long as parents are willing to comply with the requirements of the instrument required. Parents will need to fill out the form attached and send to the office.



What are the requirements that need to be complied with?

- Your child will need an instrument they can use for lessons and practicing. Note for Suzuki piano, a piano is preferred, rather than an organ, keyboard or electric piano.
- You will need to pay lesson fees for the term to your instrumental teacher usually by the second week.
- You will need to provide music as requested by your teacher and a folder with plastic sleeves for loose music sheets.
- If you are involved in the Suzuki Program an adult will need to attend lessons and be involved in the practice sessions at home. Please note for other lessons, parents are welcome to any lessons at any time.
- Check with the instrumental teacher if you are attending in case of unexpected timetable changes.
- You will need to encourage your child to practice between lessons.
- Different teachers have different expectations of the number of practices required.

How many waiting lists can my child be on?

As many lists as you may be interested in. However, your child may only be withdrawn from class for one lesson per week, so your child will only be offered a lesson time if they are not already learning an instrument at school.

What are the waiting times?

Some waiting lists are very long. At different times some instruments seem to be more popular than others. Waiting times can vary from days to years.

Why do some teachers accept children of very young ages and others don't?

In some cases, the physical size of the instrument compared to the size of the child is the biggest factor. If a child is small, holding a large instrument, stretching to reach the keys (or the floor) and blowing may be very difficult, if not impossible.

Children who wish to take voice lessons need to be of an age that their vocal cords have grown enough that they will not be damaged.

In some cases, instruments have been developed for smaller children to extend the range of time when a child might start to learn to play. Younger children wishing to learn clarinet or saxophone may start learning on a recorder. Younger children wishing to start flute may begin on recorder or a curved head flute. And students wishing to learn guitar or violin may use smaller sized guitars/violins.

The most noticeable difference in starting ages is with Suzuki lessons. The Suzuki philosophy is that the best time for a child to start is very young.

Preferred starting ages can be found in the table on page 06.

What is Suzuki?

The Suzuki philosophy was developed by Japanese violinist Shinichi Suzuki. He believed a child learns music the same way he learns his mother tongue. Children begin to learn music at a young age, in a loving and supportive environment and with constant repetition.

If you would like information regarding Suzuki Philosophy the link below to Suzuki Association of the Americas web site may be helpful.

suzukiassociation.or



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