



Holland Park
State School



Music Program Parent Handbook



INTRODUCTION

“All children can derive considerable fulfillment and enjoyment from music education, not only those who show a particular talent. The skills, concepts and attitudes should be those that benefit them not only during their schooling, but also in the years beyond. Music programs that provide opportunities for children to be actively involved in a wide range of musical experiences are more likely to develop in them an understanding or and sensitivity towards music, giving them a better chance to find meaning in music and become aware of the value of music in their own lives, as well as the lives of others.”

(Designing an Instrumental Music Program – Curriculum guide p3)

RELEVANT EDUCATION QUEENSLAND DOCUMENTS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Instrumental Music Program – Principles and Policy Statement

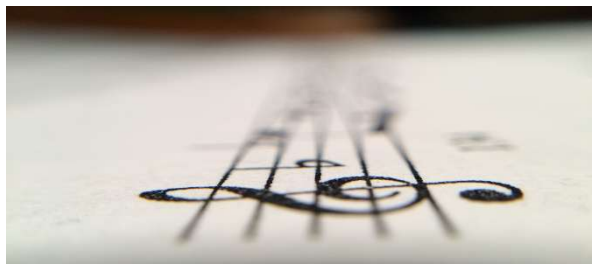
<https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/instrumental-music-program/instrumental-music-program-policy>

Music Curriculum 2.1

<https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/Documents/instrumental-music-curriculum.pdf>

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CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAM



Music is a powerful communication experience that enriches our lives daily. As well as bringing people together, making music has been proven to assist in developing memory, reasoning, personal organisation and time management skills.

Holland Park State School offers many opportunities to be involved in music, providing students with the opportunity to partake in a number of music programs, outside of their regular classroom music lessons. These include the Choral program and the Instrumental Music program.

This handbook outlines the aims, expectations and details of the Holland Park State School Music program. The privilege of being part of the music program carries with it certain responsibilities which should be met to succeed in Instrumental music study or choral involvement. If you require any information that has not been addressed in the handbook, please speak to the staff as outlined in the first page.

Program Objectives

- To provide opportunities for students to experience performing in an ensemble (orchestra or band) or choir.
- To provide a valuable and enriching dimension to enhance the school's classroom music curriculum.
- Instrumental Music also provides opportunities for students to develop instrumental music skills via weekly group tuition during the school day and through daily personal practice.
- The choral program also provides opportunities for students to develop vocal skills via weekly rehearsals.



Choir

The Choral Program provides all students with a positive and inclusive choral experience. From beginner singers to highly accomplished and experienced performers, students can participate in a progressive program that caters for a wide range of vocal abilities. Choirs are non-auditioned, with students able to join from Year 1. Participation in the Choral Program requires a full-year commitment.

Instrumental Music

Education Queensland provides the Instrumental Music Program at our school, with tuition provided free of charge. At Holland Park State School, tuition is offered on string, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Selected students may join the Strings Program from Years 3–6 and the Band Program from Years 4–6. If a child accepts a position in the strings program, they are then ineligible to join the band program. Students who withdraw from the Strings Program will also remain ineligible to join the Band Program at a later date.

In addition to attending one weekly instrumental lesson, every Instrumental Music student is required to participate in an ensemble. As part of the Education Queensland Instrumental Music Program, students cannot choose to receive individual lessons without also participating in an ensemble.

- **Instrumental lessons** are provided during school hours on string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.
- **Ensemble participation** provides students with essential group performance experience through String Ensembles, Concert Bands and other extension or small ensembles. These ensembles may rehearse during lunch breaks or outside school hours. Ensemble participation is an integral part of the Instrumental Music Program.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OFFERED AT HPSS

String instruments	Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass
Brass instruments	Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba
Woodwind instruments	Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone and Tenor Saxophone
Percussion instruments	Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Triangle, Tambourine etc.

COMMITMENT

At Holland Park we pride ourselves on the success of our co-curricular music program. The success can only be achieved through the dedication of, not only the students to their chosen program, but also their families.

Within both the Choral and Instrumental program there is an expectation that students will:

- Attend rehearsals on time and as required.
- Participate in all performances
- Display appropriate behaviour in all rehearsals and performances

Choirs

Joining a choir is a commitment to teamwork, practice, and excellence. Regular attendance and active participation are essential to the success of the ensemble and demonstrate respect for fellow choir members and the commitment they make to the group. Attendance is taken at each rehearsal with parents will be informed if attendance is irregular. If a student is absent from a rehearsal or performance, an email should to be sent to the conductor prior.

Instrumental Music

Students who are part of the Instrumental Music Program are chosen from a large number of children who are eager to join the program. When students join the program they commit to remaining in the program until the end of Year 6, or when the student departs Holland Park SS.

Students are not permitted to learn one instrument for a year, then change to a different instrument the following year. Through careful professional assessment and discussion, our teachers endeavour to ensure that each student has the opportunity to learn an instrument that is best suited to their individual strengths, interests and potential.

Whilst the school endeavours to accommodate students' preferences, placement on a particular instrument cannot be guaranteed or requested as a condition of participation. Instrument allocation is based on a professional assessment of each student's suitability for the instrument, together with the overall balance of instruments and ensemble requirements within the program.

Learning an instrument is an ongoing commitment shared by the student and their family. Continued family support and encouragement throughout the student's participation in the program is important. Please also consider your child's current extra-curricular activities before deciding whether a commitment to the Music program is a suitable choice.

Summary of Student Expectations

Students must ensure that they:

- Practice regularly at home at least three times per week, including ensemble repertoire.
- Attend all lessons, rehearsals, workshops and performances
- Take care of the instrument. Students who are using school instruments, are to be responsible with their instrument care, both at home and at school.
- Bring required resources and equipment to lessons and rehearsals.
- Display appropriate behaviour at lessons, rehearsals and performances.

Summary of Parent Expectations

- Support and supervise (as necessary) regular home practice (generally 3 -4 times a week for 10-15 minutes)
- Enable consistent attendance at lessons, rehearsals and performances
- Provide a safe place to practice (with music stand)
- Provide a safe place to store the instrument, keeping it clean and in working order
- Oversee the care of the instrument and regularly replace items as necessary (eg reeds, strings, sheet music, tutor books)
- Purchase/ provide your child with a suitable instrument after 12 months tuition (except as indicated above). Please note that, for string students, part sized instruments are used, and need to be upsized as students grow.
- Advise the Instrumental Teacher of child absence prior to lessons, rehearsals and performances.

Ongoing communication and support between students, families and the Instrumental Music staff is essential to helping students succeed. If difficulties arise with practice, waning interest, instrument function or attendance, please contact your Instrumental Music teacher as soon as possible by email. Prompt communication allows us to work together to address concerns early and provide appropriate support.

SELECTION OF NEW STUDENTS: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Due to high demand and the limited resources available to the school, it is not always possible to accommodate all students who wish to participate in the Instrumental Music Program, or to offer students their preferred instrument. As a result, a selection process is necessary to determine student placement within the program and, where possible, the most suitable instrument for each student.

Students are selected in accordance with the school's policy taking into account the balance of the ensemble program, the available time allocated to the school, and the suitability of the student. Factors influencing the student's suitability include:

- general musical aptitude and ability
- physical suitability – including such areas as hand size, arm length, jaw alignment and mouth structures as appropriate to the requirements of the instrument
- ability to maintain regular, self-directed practice
- commitment to an ensemble.

Selection of new participants occurs in semester two of the year previous (students in Years 2 and 3). The Instrumental Music teachers, Specialist Classroom music teachers, Classroom teachers and administration are all actively involved in the recruitment and decision making on selection of students for the program.

Under Education Queensland's policy, children who take up an offer in the strings program cannot be offered a place in the concert band part of the program (brass, woodwind and percussion instruments). Therefore, should a child be particularly keen to play a concert band instrument they need to forego an entry into the Strings program to give them the chance of an offer in the Concert Band program.

Any student coming from another state school who has already been in an Instrumental Music program at their previous state school will be allowed to enter the program (provided there is a position available in the program at their instrument level), however the loan of a school instrument may not be possible.

COMMUNICATION

Regular communication about Music Program activities (both choral and Instrumental Music) will be sent via email. This includes information such as rehearsal variations, upcoming performances, unexpected cancellations etc. If you require more direct contact with your child's teacher or conductor, please contact the school to make an appointment.

Communication – Instrumental Music Lessons

The Instrumental Music Program follows the Education Queensland curriculum with students being assessed on their instruments as well as homework given after each lesson.

Homework

Instrumental Music teachers set homework each week. Each Instrumental Music teacher provides practice and homework requirements in a format suited to their instrument and teaching program. Your child's teacher will explain these expectations in further detail at the beginning of the year.

Assessment

Students will complete assessments each semester. Prior to each assessment, students will be provided with clear information outlining the requirements and expectations for the assessment.

Progress Reports

Students and parents will receive a formal progress report twice per year as part of their full end of semester school report. Should there be any concerns regarding your child's progress prior to formal reporting, parents will be notified by email or phone. The most common reasons for concern include lack of practice, irregular attendance, poor punctuality or attitude.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COSTS

Annual SRS (Music levy)	\$60
School Instrument Hire	\$140
Further Incidental Costs	see page 17

Although lessons are offered free of charge there are still some fees involved in the program.

Students participating in Instrumental Music pay an **Annual SRS (Student Resource levy)** annually. This fee is used to cover extra resources and equipment such as photocopying, ensemble music, competition entry fees, music stands etc. Invoices will be issued in Term 1, 2025.

Instruments: All students who are selected to be part of the Instrumental Music program will require an instrument for practice and lessons.

- School instruments are offered at a cost, generally for the first year with the exception of larger instruments. More information is given further into the handbook. Should a child be using their own instrument, this fee does not need to be paid.
- If you decide to purchase your own instrument from the start of the program, please contact the relevant Instrumental Music teacher for a list of brands.

There are **Incidental Costs** associated with learning an instrument, and an overview is given on pages 17 and 18 and are required for the student's first lesson. Incidental Costs include tutor books, "accessories" (such as reeds, cork and valve grease, rosin), Folding Music Stand etc.

Tutor books may be used for one to two years, depending on the instrument and the student's progress. As students develop, families may be required to purchase new music books or replace instrument accessories from time to time.



SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of school instruments are available for loan at a cost of \$140 per year. Instruments are available for differing loan periods as per the instrument (please see table below). At the end of the loan period parents will need to purchase an instrument.

One Year of tuition	Violin, Viola, Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone
Two years of tuition	Cello, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone
Three or more years of tuition	Double Bass, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba

Students who are using school instruments are responsible for their care at both home and school. If the student has been irresponsible, the parent will be expected to contribute to the cost of repairs.

A Loan Agreement form must be signed by parents before an instrument is issued to a student. The form must be fully completed and returned to the Business Services Manager at the Administration block. The loan form will remain current for the school year and students will be asked to return instruments at the completion of lessons in term 4.

School Instrument Repairs

Any school instrument that needs repair should be reported to the student's Instrumental Music teacher, who will organise for the instrument to be repaired. If a school instrument is damaged through negligence or carelessness (of the student), repair costs will become the responsibility of the student. In all circumstances, the school will determine where an instrument is to be sent for repair.

Instrument Insurance

Please note that instruments, whether school-owned or privately owned, are not covered by the school's insurance policy. Families are responsible for arranging appropriate insurance cover for any instrument in their care.

Parents are strongly advised to include instruments on household contents insurance to ensure full insurance coverage.

PERFORMANCES

A major focus of the Music Program is to develop interest and encourage achievement. Throughout each year opportunities are provided for performances both within the school and at external community venues. These performance opportunities often help with developing interest, encouraging achievement, and are a chance for students to showcase their hard work and progress. Performance opportunities include assemblies, Music nights, church fetes, and competitions such as Fanfare, Queensland Youth Music Awards, Music Fest.

Attendance at performances is mandatory – the group's performance relies on a balanced ensemble, and every student is required.

Family and friends are encouraged to attend as many performances as possible, and your interest and support is invaluable to your child. In return, our performances are the way we acknowledge you and the way we share the love and language of music.

WORKSHOPS

Education Queensland organises music workshops for students in both the music programs (both choral and Instrumental Music). These workshops are often held at an external venue, bringing students together with other schools from across the Southside region. Students have the opportunity to participate in specialist group tuition, ensemble rehearsals and choir rehearsals alongside other young musicians, providing a valuable experience of collaboration, skill development and performing as part of a larger ensemble.

As well as Education Queensland run workshops, invitations to other workshops run by external groups (non-EQ) may also be offered to students during the program.

UNIFORM

Students (both Instrumental Music and Choir) perform in the Holland Park State School Formal Uniform. Females may wear either the Dress, or the Blouse and Skort. Males are to wear the Blue shirt and grey shorts. Black shoes and correct socks must be worn with the uniform, and hair is to be tied back neatly.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

Occasionally, there are cases where a student may need to withdraw from the music program. Withdrawals are rare and approved only in extenuating circumstances. Whilst the choral program can be somewhat flexible with student withdrawals, the Instrumental Music program aims to minimise the number of withdrawals due to ensemble balance.



ENSEMBLES

At Holland Park State School, we offer a wide range of ensembles across our three music programs. With the exception of Beginner Strings, all ensembles rehearse weekly and are non-auditioned.

The following outlines the Choir and Instrumental Music ensembles available to students.

STRING ENSEMBLES

POCO STRINGS

Poco Strings is the first ensemble that our string players join.

This ensemble rehearses for two to three weeks prior to concerts, providing students with their first experience of ensemble playing. Repertoire is generally played in unison as students develop the skills of listening, playing together, maintaining good posture and producing a well-tuned sound.

JUNIOR STRINGS

In 2026 Junior Strings rehearsed on a Monday from 3pm to 3:45pm

Junior Strings is an ensemble for Year 4 students in their second year of playing, with advanced Year 3 students occasionally invited to join. Students perform music in two or three parts, developing their ability to play independently while maintaining a strong sense of ensemble. Rehearsals focus on rhythmic unity, listening and learning to watch and respond to the conductor.

SENIOR STRINGS

In 2026 Senior Strings rehearsed on Thursdays 7:30-8:30am

Senior Strings is our most advanced string ensemble, consisting predominantly of students in Years 5 and 6, with the occasional advanced Year 4 student. The ensemble develops advanced ensemble skills through complex part-writing, intricate melodies and harmonies. Students perform a variety of musical styles, including selected pieces from popular films, while exploring a wider range of key signatures and time signatures.



CONCERT BAND

CONCERT BAND

In 2026 Concert Band rehearsed on Wednesdays 7:45-8:30am

Concert Band is comprised predominantly of students in Years 5 and 6. Year 4 students join the band in their second semester of learning. Students build their ensemble skills, focusing on the finer details of watching the conductor, dynamics, articulations, and explores a wider range of key signatures, time signatures and styles.



CHOIRS

At Holland Park State School we currently have three choirs. Students are encouraged to bring a folder for sheet music and a drink bottle to rehearsals.



YEAR 1 SINGING CLUB

In 2026 rehearsals were held on Mondays 11:15 AM - 11:40 AM (First Break)

The Year 1 Singing Club is a fun and informal vocal club for our youngest singers. This club focuses on improving pitch, learning new songs, and fostering a love for music in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. It's an excellent introduction to group singing and a great way to build confidence in young vocalists.

JUNIOR CHOIR

In 2026 rehearsals were held on Fridays from 8:15 AM - 8:45 AM

The Junior Choir is designed for younger students in Years 2 and 3 who love to sing and want to develop their musical abilities. This choir emphasizes the basics of singing, including pitch, rhythm, and expression, through fun and engaging songs.

SENIOR CHOIR

In 2026 rehearsals were hold on Thursdays from 7:45 AM - 8:45 AM

The Senior Choir offers students in Years 4 to 6 an opportunity to develop their vocal skills and experience the joy of singing in a group. Rehearsals focus on a diverse repertoire, vocal techniques, and performance preparation.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES FOR BEGINNER STUDENTS

The table below gives an overview of requirements for beginner students for each instrument. A detailed overview (including which brands to purchase) will be emailed by the instrumental teacher at the end of the previous year.

As students progress further tutor books and incidentals may be required. Your Instrumental Music teacher will notify you when this is needed.

Instruments	Requirements	Approx Cost
Violin, Viola	• Sound Innovations Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Encore on Strings Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding music stand • Black Display Folder • Shoulder rest (not foldable) • Microfibre cleaning cloth • Rosin • Things 4 Strings Bow Hold Fish	\$180
Cello, Bass	• Sound Innovations Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Encore on Strings Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding music stand • Black Display Folder • Microfibre cleaning cloth • Wada bow hold grip • Rock stop • Rosin (<i>bass players purchase Nyman Bass rosin</i>)	\$180
Flute	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 <i>for Flute</i> • Internal cleaning gauze • Silver Polishing cloth • Folding music stand • Black Display Folder	\$100
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 • Folding music stand • Reeds and Reed Guard (consumable item) • Pull through cleaner <i>for your instrument</i> • Cork grease • Black Display Folder	\$170

Instruments	Requirements	Approx Cost
Alto Saxophone Tenor Saxophone	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding music stand • Reeds and Reed Guard (consumable item) • Pull through cleaner <i>for your instrument</i> • Cork grease • Mouthpiece patch (black rubber pad) • Neotech Neck or shoulder strap • Black Display Folder	\$200
Trumpet Baritone Euphonium Tuba	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding music stand • Valve oil • Tuning slide grease • Black Display Folder	\$100
French Horn	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding Music stand • Rotary Valve oil • Bearing oil • Tuning slide grease • Black Display Folder	\$110
Trombone	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding Music stand • Small water spray bottle • Tuning slide grease • Trombone slide cream • Black Display Folder	\$120
Percussion	• Accent on Achievement Book 1 <i>for your instrument</i> • Folding Music stand • Drum sticks • Mallets • Stick bag • Drum practice pad and stand • Glockenspiel • Black Display Folder	\$500

RECOMMENDED REPAIRERS AND SUPPLIERS

Below are a list of reputable companies from which you can purchase your Instrumental music books and accessories from. These suppliers are also companies we also recommend for purchasing and repairing of instruments when you require. Again, please do not purchase an instrument without discussing with your Instrumental teach first, and getting a list of Recommended Brands.

STRING RETAILERS AND REPAIRERS

Animato Strings Unit 5/ 789 Kingsford Smith Drive Eagle Farm Qld 4009 Ph: 3876 3877 www.animato.com.au	Simply for Strings 78 Enoggera Terrace Red Hill Qld 4059 Ph: 1300 739 293 or 3368 3666 www.simplyforstrings.com.au
The Violin Studio 29 Lamington Terrace Dutton Park Qld 4102 Ph: 3844 6090 www.theviolinstudio.com	Vivace Music 2048 Logan Rd Upper Mt Gravatt 4122 Ph: 3849 7099 www.musicexpress.com.au
Ian Clarke Violins Bundara, Biddeston Toowoomba Ph: 4691 6282 www.clarkeviolins.com	First Strings 9/46-50 Spencer Rd Nerang Ph: 55963465 www.firststrings.com.au

WOODWIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION RETAILERS AND REPAIRERS

Other Music Australia PO Box 24 Kippa-Ring QLD 4021 Ph: 0488 668 742 info@othermusic.com.au	Brisbane Brass & Woodwind – BLOW 3/149 Musgrave Rd, Red Hill 4059 Ph: (07) 3368 1106 info@blowwinds.com.au
Wood Winds and Brass 88 Flinders Parade, North Lakes QLD 4509 Ph: 1300 378 452 woodswindandbrass.com.au	Vivace Music 2/550 Kessels Rd, MacGregor 4109 Ph: (07) 3420 4202
Brass Music Specialists 90 Appel St, Graceville 4075 Ph: (07) 3278 1311	Drew Niemeyer: Woodwind Instrument Repairer 3/47 Douglas Street Greenslopes QLD 4120 Ph: 0435 005 345 E: drew@orchestralwind.com
Better Sounds Australia 34 Centenary Pl, Logan Village 4207 ph: (07) 5546 3711 www.bettersounds.com.au	

The Benefits of Music Education

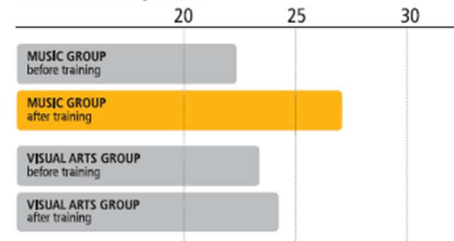
NEUROSCIENTISTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED that learning to play an instrument or sing leads to changes in a child's brain that make it more likely they will reach their full cognitive and academic potential.



SPEECH AND READING

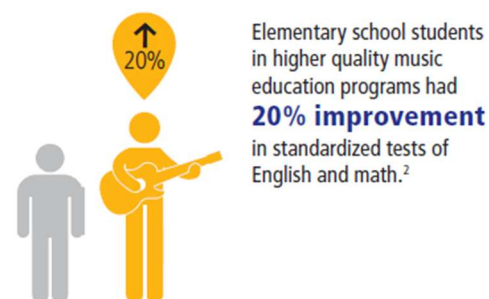
Young children taking music lessons showed dramatic improvement in their verbal intelligence after only four weeks of music training.¹

Raw Vocabulary Score

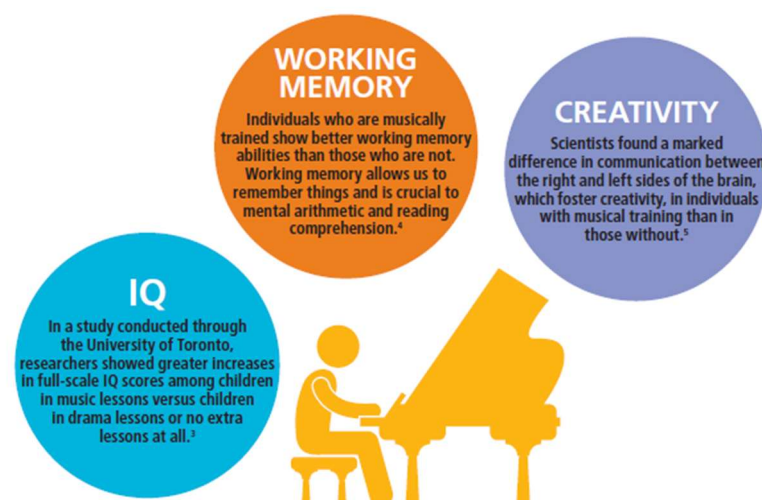


ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The quality of a child's music education is linked to their academic achievement.²



COGNITIVE BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION



"The theory of relativity occurred to me by intuition, and music is the driving force behind this intuition. My parents had me study the violin from the time I was six. My new discovery is the result of musical perception." **Albert Einstein**



To download "The Benefits of Music Education" scan here or visit rcmusic.ca/resources