



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2021

Music Information 2021

Instrumental Music Lessons

Congratulations on choosing Instrumental Music lessons for your child!

Music is such an important aspect of your child's development, and the benefits of an instrumental music education are many. Musical activities provide children with important experiences that can help to develop physical coordination, timing, memory, visual, aural and language skills.

When students work to increase their command of music and exercise musical skills in the company of others, they gain important experience with self-paced learning, mental concentration and a heightened personal and social awareness.

Providing your child with a musical education at a young age increases the likelihood your child will become more meaningfully involved in music in later life as a listener, performer, or composer.

The Instrumental Music Staff at St. John's Regional College are enthusiastic, supportive, and experienced music educators. A variety of instruments are offered including singing, piano, guitar, and drums (with more available upon request).

Students who wish to learn an instrument are encouraged to choose Classroom Music as an elective in years 9 and beyond, and join at least one of the three current ensembles the school offers: College Choir, Percussion Ensemble, and the Youth Band (all free) where they can establish early musicianship skills.

Benefits of learning an instrument

It is a widely accepted fact that learning music is beneficial for all children, regardless of a predisposition or talent for music.

Neuroscientific research now suggests that there are transferable skills from Music to other areas of school (e.g. English and Mathematics). This is why music learning is a full brain workout! Please see the below skills that are developed:



Transferable learning

The following cognitive skills have been found to be improved by music learning

Language

- Phonological awareness
- Language skills
- Literacy & Reading
- Comprehension
- Verbal Memory etc.

Executive Function

- Attention & Focus
- Planning & Strategy
- Impulse control
- Personal Organization
- Goal setting etc.

Social Skills

- Prosocial behavior
- Empathy & Responsibility
- Strong relationships
- Managing conflict
- Teamwork etc.

Collins, A. (2018). *Bigger, Better, Brains: An Introduction to Music Learning and the Brain* (PowerPoint Slides).

Instrumental Music Fees

Enrolments and payments to be made via this link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNABI>

St. John's Regional College offers individual and group Instrumental Music lessons to students interested in extending their musical development. If you would like your child to participate please enrol them online via the link provided. Tuition is currently available for the instruments highlighted below. All other instruments are dependent on student interest and teacher availability.

Violin | Trumpet | Flute | **Piano** | Trombone
Clarinet | Bass Guitar | **Singing** | Saxophone | **Drum kit** | **Guitar**

Fees and Charges

- Individual 30-minute lesson: \$32
- Shared (*two students*) 30-minute lesson: \$18

In the event your child is enrolled into shared lessons and there are no other students available to join, individual 20-minute lessons will be offered instead. Shared lessons are unavailable for Drums and Piano, and lessons will be charged per Term in full.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Individual	\$224	\$288	\$288	\$224
Shared	\$126	\$162	\$162	\$126
Number of Lessons	7	9	9	7

Group lessons dependent on enrolment numbers.

Instrumental Music Fees

Instrumental Music Lessons

Please note: extra charges will apply to students wishing to undertake AMEB exams.

Terms and Conditions of Music lessons:

1. Lessons are to be paid for the term in advance. Payments are made via the [Trybooking](#).link provided.
2. If the teacher is unavailable at the scheduled time, the lesson will be made up in the current term or it will be credited from the following terms fees.
3. If the student is not available at the scheduled time the lesson will not be rescheduled unless the absence is a College approved absence.
4. The College will notify parents if the student does not attend the designated lesson.
5. The College reserves the right to withhold lessons from families whose tuition fee accounts are not up to date.

School Terms

All payments are to be made per term, and are now done online via this link:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNABI>

Tuition Times

Instrumental tuition takes place during school hours on a rotating roster basis. This attempts to prevent students missing the same lesson in class week after week, minimising serious interruption to schoolwork. It is important, however, that parents recognise and accept that enrolling children into Instrumental Music lessons that Teachers are not able to accommodate parental requests for lesson times outside of class time.

Missed Lessons

Staff Absence

Lessons missed due to Instrumental Music Staff being absent from school will be made up. In special circumstances where it is difficult to make up lessons a credit will be given.

School Excursions / Camps / SIS Sport / Activities

Lessons missed due to school-organised activities, will wherever possible, be made up. If your child cannot attend their lesson due to another commitment, please ensure you inform your child's Instrumental Music Teacher and a make-up lesson will be arranged. Instrumental teachers can be contacted through direct messages on SEQTA.

Student Illness

If your child is unwell and won't be attending school on the day of a music lesson please ensure you inform the College **before 8:30am that morning** and include in the phone call and/or message that they have a music lesson. A make-up lesson will be arranged. Alternatively, a direct message can be sent to your child's teacher on SEQTA.

Holidays or Personal Activities within the School Terms

It is important that parents understand when making arrangements to take children on holidays or personal activities during school terms, the School Instrumental Music Policy does not expect or require Instrumental Music Teachers to make up missed lessons. Missed lessons will be charged at the normal rate.

Extended Leave

If a family is away on extended leave (four or more weeks) during the School term, missed lessons are not required to be rescheduled by the Instrumental Music Teacher unless two weeks notice has been given via direct message to them on SEQTA (for our records). In that case, lessons are credited and will be made up upon the student's return to school. Parents are to ensure that Instrumental Music Teachers are notified well in advance for this to happen.

Please be aware that it is your child's responsibility to notify their classroom teacher that they must leave to attend their music lesson. If they forget to attend there will be no make-up lesson.

Missed Lessons

Timetabling of Lessons

A lesson timetable will be provided to both the student and parent/guardian at the beginning of each term. A copy is also available on SEQTA Documents and on the noticeboard in the Holy Family Performing Arts Building. It is solely the student's responsibility to confirm lesson times each week.

Arranging Make-up lessons

Any make-up lessons are to be arranged directly with the Instrumental Music Teacher via direct message in SEQTA.

Contacting the College

Any general messages/enquiries regarding Instrumental Music lessons should be sent to the Office Administration team at officeadmin@sjrc.vic.edu.au. Please include "Music Lesson" as the subject, and CC the Arts & Engagement Leader, Mrs. Tania Robinson at trobinson@sjrc.vic.edu.au.

Any *specific* messages/enquiries should be sent as a direct message to your child's Instrumental Music Teacher via SEQTA.

Other

By reading this information you are acknowledging that you have read and understood these guidelines.

The Arts & Engagement Leader reserves the right to exercise discretion in the above circumstances.

Ensembles and Choirs

At St. John's Regional College we consider it important to offer a well balanced, interesting, and varied educational experience. An important aspect of a musical education is ensemble work. Playing with peers is a great way to develop part work, tuning, rhythm and phrasing skills.

The College provides several ensembles - College Choir, Percussion Ensemble, and the Youth Band at no additional cost. SJRC instrumental and classroom students are encouraged to participate in the School's ensembles and choir. Students are expected to be responsible members and abide by the requests of the Ensemble Leader or Choral Director. Continued involvement in ensembles and choir is based upon regular attendance at practices, co-operation with the Ensemble Leader and/or Choral Director and meeting an appropriate standard (as determined by the Leader of the ensemble or choir).

Students involved in ensembles and choir make a commitment to attend regular during or after-school practices and rehearsals as a condition of membership.

Students who learn instruments outside of the College, are invited to participate in ensembles, providing they are at an appropriate standard (as determined by the Leader of the ensemble).

Progress Reports

Instrumental Music Teachers at St. John's Regional College acknowledge the importance of contact with parents and teachers regarding student progress. Instrumental reports are available by request. Please contact the Arts & Engagement Leader within the first four weeks of either semester if you would like to receive a progress report for your child at the end of each semester.

Music Record Books

At the commencement of each year, each child will receive a Music Record Book to be used for recording homework exercises and as a valuable tool for communication between you and your child's Instrumental Music Teacher. Please ensure the record book accompanies your child to every lesson.

Instrument Hire

St. John's Regional College is able to assist parents with the hiring of instruments. Please contact the Arts & Engagement Leader for further information.

Students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument if they continue learning an instrument beyond their first year. It is important to note that students who are learning on their own instrument are **more likely to continue** learning an instrument than students who are using a hired instrument.

Home Practice

Home practice is key to successful musical development. Without regular home practice, students do not maintain the sequential development needed to become successful on a musical instrument. The time spent on home practice will vary depending upon the age and maturity of the child. The Instrumental Music Teachers at SJRC will assist you in determining a suitable amount of home practice time.

Parents are the key to making home practice a positive experience for their children. Make home practice a priority and provide a quiet and regular home practice environment. Take an interest, provide praise and support and contact the Instrumental Teacher if you have a problem.

AMEB Music Exams

Opportunity exists for students to undertake AMEB Exams, however, it is not compulsory for students learning an instrument at St. John's Regional College to undertake these exams.

Parents are invited to discuss their child's participation in AMEB Exams with their child's Instrumental Music Teacher if they are interested in this option.

The Instrumental Music Teacher reserves the right to advise parents about the appropriateness of AMEB Exams for their child. Consideration needs to be given to the child's capability, level of ability, and preparedness to practice for participation in AMEB Exams. Please discuss this with your child's Instrumental Music Teacher to ensure an informed decision is made.

There is an AMEB Exam Fee for students undertaking AMEB Exams. Parents of children undertaking AMEB Exams will be invoiced for this fee.

Home Practice tips for Parents

You can help your child gain success on their instrument by:

- Showing an interest in the music study of your child.
- Helping arrange a regular time for practice.
- Helping locate a quiet place for practice, free from interruptions, improper temperatures, poor lighting or noises.
- Helping your child with practice if you can.
- Not making fun of strange sounds you may hear.
- Having patience with your child's progress.
- Helping to remind your child of practice time.
- Helping your child to find a safe place to store their instrument.
- Keeping instruments in good repair.
- Encouraging your child to perform for others when the opportunity arises; in the home, at school, at church, in the community and for relatives.
- Attending scheduled music concerts and events.
- Encouraging your child to listen to recorded and live music.
- Having practice objectives in mind before beginning practice. Isolate problem areas in music and work on these at the onset of practice.
- Having your child work on a section of the piece that is difficult.
- Having your child maintain good posture while practising. Unless the instrument makes it impossible, stand up to practise.
- Having your child play in front of a mirror, frequently checking for good posture, embouchure and hand position. A music stand for home practice is essential for instruments other than piano.
- Ensuring your child's music books and equipment are taken to school on your child's lesson day.
- Remembering that several short practices each week can be more beneficial than one or two longer practices.

If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns regarding your child's instrumental musical education please feel free to contact the Arts & Engagement Leader, Classroom Music teacher, or any of the Instrumental Music Teachers.

Contact Details

Arts & Engagement Leader - Tania Robinson

trobinson@sjrc.vic.edu.au

Daily Organiser - Brad Heeps

bheeps@sjrc.vic.edu.au

Office Administration

OfficeAdmin@sjrc.vic.edu.au

Instrumental Music Staff

Vocals - Perri Espinoza

Piano - Monica Nguyen

Guitar / Drum kit - Montel Thomas

Phone: (03) 8793 - 2000

Address: 5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong VIC, 3175

With respect, we acknowledge the elders and people of the Kulin Nation.

