



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC POLICY

Rationale:

Music is considered to be essential in the development of all young people. Through active music education adolescents develop not only music related skills but also the potential to improve personal and interpersonal skills across all curriculum areas. It is with this aim that Wallan Secondary College provides opportunities for all students at all levels to participate in structured and music education.

Wallan Secondary College offers an instrumental music program that provides students with the opportunity of tuition in a range of instruments. More specifically, the Instrumental Music Program gives the students the chance to enjoy playing music, develop self discipline and expression, self confidence and a sense of teamwork and responsibility as part of an ensemble. Participating students must have a real sense of commitment to all aspects of the program, be enthusiastic about playing music and have the support of their family.

LESSONS

Lessons are offered for **Guitar** (Acoustic, Electric and Bass), **Woodwind** (Clarinet, Saxophone), **Percussion** (drums), and **Piano**. **Brass** and **String** lessons can be arranged. Lessons are normally conducted in small groups or individually during the school day for 30 minutes per week. Lesson time is rotated to minimise class disruption.

TIMETABLES

Timetables are posted on the school noticeboards. A rotating timetable is used wherever possible to ensure that students do not miss the same subject in consecutive weeks. It is the student's responsibility to consult the Instrumental Timetable to know when his/her lesson is scheduled for the following week. This time should be recorded in the student's school planner.

GUIDELINES

1. Instrumental Music at Wallan Secondary College

The Instrumental Music Program is the responsibility of the Instrumental Music Coordinator who plans and develops this area. Instrumental music is part of the Performing Arts Faculty, however the coordinator is responsible directly to the Principal.

2. The role of the Instrumental Music Coordinator

The Instrumental Music Coordinator is to oversee the day to day management and development of the Instrumental Music Curriculum. This includes overseeing and, where appropriate, determining instrumental timetables, activities, festivals, excursions and special events. It is also the responsibility of the Instrumental Music Coordinator to direct the development of resources and finances, and provide leadership, direction and support for students and staff.

3. Instrumental Program Student Attendance Policy

Students must pay for tuition. The weekly charge, plus any purchased items or hire of instrument, is invoiced to the student account at the end of each term. Students will only be allowed a make-up lesson or refund if the Music Coordinator deems it appropriate (this could include extended illness, school excursions/camps etc). Students must give notice of absence where possible to the music staff.

Students who forget to attend lessons will be charged for lessons missed. It is the responsibility of the student to attend all lessons scheduled when present at school.

Students must agree to continue to learn their instrument for at least one semester, and are expected to play in an ensemble when required to do so. Performances may include musical soirees, school assemblies and local performances as scheduled. Lessons will only begin at the commencement of each term (not mid-term).

All students are expected to catch up on any work missed in their timetabled class.

Students must ensure they are punctual to each lesson and bring all necessary equipment - instrument, school planner and writing materials.

4. Practice

Practice should be maintained on a regular daily basis. There is an expectation and understanding that instrumental music students will practice 20 minutes every night (or any other duration the instrumental teacher deems appropriate) and will perform at all school concerts or events when asked. Advanced students are encouraged to sit for an exam on their instrument.

5. Hire of Instruments

Instruments may be hired through the college at a cost to the student. This cost will vary according to the instrument but ranges from \$25 - \$60 per term. Fees for instrument hire will be added to school accounts each term. It is advisable for a student to begin learning on a hire instrument before outlaying the cost on their own instrument.

Any musical instrument hired from or through the college must be returned before the start of the school holidays if the student is to discontinue hire. If this does not occur, parents will be charged an extra term's hire fees. While the music coordinator will endeavour to remind and assist in this process it is the student/parents responsibility to ensure this process. Students need to purchase their own music books, reeds, valve oil, drum sticks etc.

6. Enrolment

Students enrol in music tuition for at least one semester and it will be assumed that he/she is continuing from term to term unless otherwise notified. If withdrawal is necessary for any reason the College needs to be notified in writing. Students will however, have to re-enrol at the start of each new school year.

7. Instrumental Music Teachers

Instrumental Music lessons are conducted by visiting instrumental teachers.

Their role includes:

- Signing student planners after each lesson
- Liaising with parents if concerns arise
- Keeping an attendance roll and a record of any purchases made by the student.
- Totalling costs for students at the conclusion of each term and submitting to the Business Manager via the Instrumental Music Coordinator
- Ordering any music related purchases through the Music Coordinator
- Developing and displaying timetables on the notice boards for student referral
- Conducting rehearsals for student performances and other activities organised
- Dressing in a neat and tidy manner appropriate for a teacher (no runners or jeans)

Date of next review: December 2017

This policy was ratified by the Wallan Secondary College Council on	14 th May 2014
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Wallan Secondary College is committed to the protection and wellbeing of all students whilst participating in school activities both during and outside school hours. Staff have responsibility for building and maintaining a child safe environment. This responsibility extends to the identification and timely response to all concerns with regard the safety of any student of our College.