

---

# McDOWALL STATE SCHOOL



## Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence \*

# 2022

*Achieving the best outcomes for all students.*

\* Officially accredited as a 'Programme of Excellence' by Education Queensland from 2018.

## RATIONALE:

**Performing Arts** is about personal expression both individually and collectively. **Performing Arts Disciplines** such as instrumental music, dance, choral work, art, etc have evolved over the centuries and continue to interrelate extensively with all other human academic and cultural pursuits. **Excellence** within a discipline can be defined as the collective mastery of knowledge and expertise evident within performance. **Artistry** is evident when the performer demonstrates a perceived ease in exercising performance precision and in establishing an influential emotional connection with the audience. Student success and achievement in Performing Arts will both complement and enhance a student's developmental progress in academic, cultural, physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

Music offers its own unique symbol system or language. Its sensory system is predominantly aural, using sound and the sense of hearing. As an essential form of expression and communication, music provides opportunities for aesthetic experiences.

Music contributes to learning through the development of aspects such as memory, coordination, concentration and inventiveness. The study of music also develops decision making and concept formation along with logical, critical and divergent thinking skills. In this way, music contributes to the development of human intelligence. Mastery of physical and perceptual skills gives students a sense of achievement, self-confidence and self-esteem.



## AIMS:

McDowall State School's Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence provides students with professionally planned opportunities to:

- Formally engage with music and develop an enduring love of and lifelong involvement with music;
- Learn to play a musical instrument;
- Engage in music making through a range of learning experiences and a variety of styles and contexts both individually and with others;
- Become musically literate and capable of communicating through music, therefore becoming articulate participants in the musical life of the community;
- Develop their critical faculty and intellect through activities that develop higher-order thinking skills, executive functioning skills and creative problem-solving abilities; and,
- Develop social and personal skills that promote group cooperation, responsibility, confidence and self-esteem.

## PROGRAMME of EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW:

McDowall State School is committed to delivering a quality and robust Instrumental Music Programme and we acknowledge that many more parents would like their child to participate within this extra-curricular programme than could be accommodated within regionally allocated teacher time and school resources. Our goal is for up to 400 students from across Years 3-6 to learn an instrument and be provided with additional instructional opportunities.

It is our intent to form specifically designed Instrumental Music Immersion Classes in which all students within the class will be learning an instrument at school. Where possible, each class should constitute their own band.

Year 3 ... 2 x Wind, Brass, Percussion Classes (56 students) + 2 x Strings Classes (56 students).
Year 4 ... 2 x Wind, Brass, Percussion Classes (56 students) + 2 x Strings Class (56 students).
Year 5 ... 2 x Wind, Brass, Percussion Classes (56 students) + 2 x Strings Class (56 students).
Year 6 ... 2 x Wind, Brass, Percussion Classes (56 students) + 1 x Strings Class (28 students).

The annual programme structure will be determined by 'Expression of Interest' but it would be anticipated that most, if not all students, will progress from Years 3-6.

All students within the programme receive a weekly 30min small group (average 6 students) tutorial, depending on capability a band rehearsal either before or after school; and another band rehearsal during their rostered weekly Music Lesson, with the Music Teacher (where possible) providing additional student support. Regular performance opportunities are scheduled annually. Students are generally drawn from the same classes.

The Instrumental Music Immersion Programme is an extra-curricular programme opportunity made available to students. Fees and charges apply for student involvement. The programme can only be sustained if parents support the programme and pay the associated fees and charges.



## EXPECTATIONS:

**Student Commitment** – It is expected that every student within the programme will:

- Do regular practice on their instrument – minimum 30 minutes each of 5 days weekly;
- Become a member of an appropriate school ensemble as designated by an Instrumental Music Teacher;
  - Note: Strings players will join Ensemble after one year of instruction.*
  - Brass, Woodwind & Percussion players will begin Concert Band in Term 2 / 3.*
- Attend and perform in all concerts and events. Refer to *Instrumental Calendar* (Page 8);
- Attend all lessons, rehearsals and other classes as required; and
- Wear the approved Band Uniform, as required. Refer to *Band Uniforms* (Page 13).
- Maintain a 'Practice Record' and have it endorsed by their parent.
- Demonstrate behaviour of a high standard (A-B Rating on Student Progress Report)

**Parental Commitment – It is expected that parents of students within the programme will:**

- Provide their child with a suitable instrument (*Advice is available from the teacher*);
- Show an interest and keenly monitor their child's learning of their instrument;
- Find a quiet, suitable place for their child to practise without interruption;
- Ensure a regular daily time is set aside for the child to practise their instrument;
- Encourage and assist their child with his or her practice as much as possible;
- Assist your child to complete a 'Practice Record' and endorse it as being correct;
- Ensure the care and safe storage of the instrument both when being played and not in use;
- Keep the instrument in good repair with spare consumables e.g. reeds, strings, etc;
- Ensure child preparedness, attendance and punctuality for rehearsals, lessons, concerts and performances (as required);
- Encourage your child to play for others whenever possible.



Student involvement within the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Programme of Excellence is for a **minimum** period of one full school year, with an **expectation of long-term commitment**, exercising discipline and achieving heightened mastery of the instrument, both solo and in ensemble and band performance. The exception to this is where student participation is discontinued due to not continuing to meet the requirements and commitments of the programme, or at the discretion of the Principal.

## INSTRUMENTS:

The Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence is established by McDowall State School to give capable students an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Instruments taught are:

<b>Strings:</b>	Violin Viola	Cello	Double Bass
<b>Woodwind:</b>	Flute Alto Saxophone	Clarinet Tenor Saxophone	Bass Clarinet Oboe
<b>Brass:</b>	Trumpet French Horn	Trombone	Euphonium / Baritone
<b>Percussion:</b>	Drums	Glockenspiel	Auxiliary Percussion

The McDowall SS will continue to retain a small number of all instrument types for student use. Learning an instrument is a long-term commitment, requiring discipline, practice, performance and heightened mastery over many years. It is therefore expected that after Year 4, all students own their own instrument and maintain it accordingly. The following exceptions apply:

- **McDowall SS will hire all instruments required to Year 3 and Year 4 students only.**
- McDowall SS will hire select large expensive instruments to Years 5-6 students.  
(*Parents may still elect to purchase an instrument privately should they elect to do so.*)

### **Instruments to be purchased by the Years 5-6 student:**

Flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, xylophone, percussion sticks / practice pads, etc, violin and viola.

*(These instruments range in price from \$250-\$700)*

**Instruments hired by McDowall SS to the Years 5-6 student @ \$80pa:**

Bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, cello and double bass.

(These instruments range in price from \$1,000-\$5,500)

Purchase prices vary according to supplier, brand, quality, sales and number being purchased. Parents may search the internet for current prices (WoodsWind and Brass, Simply for Strings, OzWinds, Just Percussion etc). It is recommended that parents seek brand advice from instrumental music teachers before making an actual purchase.

School instruments are to be returned at the end of each year on a date as advised by the Instrumental Music Teacher.

**PURCHASE OF INSTRUMENTS:**

From Year 5, unless pre-arranged, you will need to purchase or hire a suitable instrument from a reputable Music Store if you wish your child to continue in the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence. The following information is included as a guide to assist you with your purchase.

Instrument	Recommended Brands	Approximate Cost (new)
Flute	Yamaha (not Q class), Gemeinhorat, Jupiter, Pearl	\$600 - \$800
Clarinet	Yamaha (not Q class), Jupiter, Buffet	\$500 - \$700
Trumpet	Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter	\$500 - \$700
Trombone	Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter, King, Holst	\$800 - \$1,000
Violin / Viola	Check with your music retailer for recommended brands.	\$300 - \$500
Trombone	Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter, King, Holst	\$800-1,000

Education Queensland has finalised a 'Standing Order Arrangement' for the supply of musical instruments and stands. This new supply arrangement has been developed to enable value for money for purchases of musical instruments, as well as to establish an indicative level of quality for the instruments purchased by schools and by parents of students in music programmes. Parents are encouraged to purchase instruments at least at the level indicated in the SOA. You may prefer to purchase a second-hand instrument. These may be purchased through some music stores and also by private sale e.g. through the *Gumtree* or *Weekend Shopper*. If you decide to purchase a second-hand instrument, please make sure the instrument is in the advertised condition (look for scratches and dents, and make sure it can be assembled properly). Ask for a demonstration, or have your child play the instrument, and ask for proof of ownership, evaluation certification or applicable warranties. Please note, purchasing over the internet (e.g. eBay, Gumtree) is generally not recommended unless the purchaser makes available an inspection prior to bidding/ buying. **Hiring schemes are also available at many reputable music stores. These same stores often permit instruments to be paid off in monthly instalments.**

**EQUIPMENT:**

Regular expenses such as strings, reeds, cork, grease and valve oil must be met by parents. A Music Stand is required for your child for home practice to develop correct posture and practice skills. The following 'Instrument Packs' outline the requirements for each instrument. A number of music stores endeavour to make up these packs for ease of purchasing.

- Simply for Strings.
- WoodsWind and Brass.
- Just Percussion.

**Violin/Viola Pack**

- Essential Elements for Strings – Violin / Viola Book 1
- Rosin
- Shoulder rest (FOM Brand, Kun style)
- Cleaning cloth
- Music Stand

**Cello/Double Bass Pack**

- Essential Elements for Strings – Cello / Double Bass Book 1
- Rosin
- Rock Stop
- Cleaning Cloth
- Music Stand

**Clarinet/Saxophone Pack**

- Essential Elements for Band – Clarinet / Alto / Tenor Saxophone Book 1
- Cork grease
- Reed guard
- Reeds – 4 x size 2 and 2 x size 2½
- Mouth piece patches x 2
- Mouthpiece brush
- Pull through
- Thumb cushion
- Duster brush
- Music Stand

**Flute Pack**

- Essential Elements for Band – Flute Book 1
- Rod cloth and polish cloth
- Music Stand

**Trumpet/Horn Pack**

- Essential Elements for Band – Book 1
- Valve oil (Al Cass brand)
- Slide grease
- Cleaning snake
- Mouthpiece brush
- Music Stand

**Trombone/Euphonium Pack**

- Essential Elements for Band (Bass Clef) – Book 1
- Slide Grease
- Slide Cream
- Spray bottle (small)
- Cleaning Snake
- Mouthpiece brush
- Valve oil (Al Cass brand) Euphonium only
- Music Stand

**Percussion pack**

- Essential Elements for Band – Percussion Book 1
- Drum Sticks + Mallets (rubber head)
- Drum practice pad (natural rebound practice pad)
- Music Stand

## STUDENT SELECTION:

The selection process for students considers three areas:

1. The student's attitude and commitment in meeting programme requirements.
2. The physical characteristics of the student.
3. Parent commitment in support of the student's full participation.

Students are **not** selected on the basis of their academic ability, in fact educational research tells us that student inclusion within the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence will, over time, heighten academic achievement for all students. Students are assessed in small groups. Assessment encompasses pitch recognition, melody memory and rhythm recognition. It is used as a guide when choosing new students.

A student's attitude toward music, co-operation, reliability, ability to work both independently and in groups are essential. The student's keenness to learn, musical aptitude, physical characteristics pertinent to a particular instrument, commitment of both student and parent to regular, sustained practice as well as commitment to attendance at lessons, rehearsals and performances are taken into consideration.

Many students have a particular instrument in mind that they would like to play. Consideration is given to the student's request, however, there are many other factors to be considered, such as physical characteristics. McDowall State School Instrumental Music Ensembles must have the 'right' balance and variety of instruments and the school must implement succession planning in terms of orchestration. Once instrument instruction is offered and accepted by the parent, the student is expected to continue with that instrument until exiting Year 6 and continue through High School learning that same instrument. **Should a student withdraw from the instrument instruction that they began, then they withdraw from the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme, being required to reapply for entry and for consideration for instruction toward a different instrument the following year (without guarantee of inclusion). Withdrawal may also result in the student being placed in another Year Level class group.**

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAMME FEES:

Tuition by Instrumental Music Teachers, is provided to students accepted within the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence. The McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence is designed to extend and build upon the regionally funded Instrumental Music Programme. McDowall State School delivers additional String, Wind, Brass and Percussion tuition time so that more students can participate within the programme and these same students receive increased instruction. The following fees apply. The programme can only be sustained if parents support the programme and are prepared to pay the associated fees and charges. In comparison with 'private tutoring' this programme continues to offer excellent value for money.

**Instrumental Music Instruction Fee: \$300.00** (Applies to all students. To be confirmed late Term 4.)

- Tuition costs.

**Instrumental Music Programme Fee: \$40.00** (Applies to all students)

- School programme costs: sheet music, photocopying, consumables, equipment.
- Regional Programme Fee (Music Co-ordinator)

**Instrument Hire Fee: \$80.00** (Applies to all Year 3 and 4 students and specified instruments across Yrs 5-6)

- Annual instrument repair & maintenance, replacement schedule.

**Performance Calendar Costs: \$As advised.**

**Performance Band Uniform: \$As advised.**

**Green Band Folder: \$As advised through School Book Packs.**

The Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence Commitment Form (signed), and a non-refundable programme deposit of **\$100.00** is payable to "McDowall State School" and must be received at School Administration by **1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021**. Once a student has secured their place within the programme (Commitment Form &



payment of \$100.00 deposit) and the new school year has begun, the balance of fees are to be paid: **\$140.00** in **February, 2022** and **\$100.00** in **May, 2022**. Should a student be hiring a school instrument, Instrumental Music Teachers will distribute an Instrument Loan Agreement Form and an additional **\$80.00** invoice for payment in **February, 2022**. This form is to be returned to the Music Coordinator. Only then will a school instrument be issued to approved students.

**School Instrument Damage:** The McDowall State School will cover the maintenance and repair servicing costs for school-owned instruments that show signs of **fair 'wear' and 'tear'** due to student practice and performance with the instrument. If an instrument is damaged or you believe is in need of repair/service you must report it to your child's Instrumental Music Teacher for inspection. Repair and/or replacement costs resulting from **wilful damage or negligence** by the student must be met by the parent. It is recommended that insurance is taken out by the parent to cover costs associated with damage or loss of instrument.

- Instruments are to be taken home daily.
- Instruments are not to be left in classrooms over-night.
- Instruments are not to be left outside classrooms.
- Purchase of care items such as cork grease, rosin, reeds, valve oil, etc (consumable items) is the responsibility of parents.

Students with a school instrument must return the instrument in the second last week of school so that the following may occur:

- The instrument and case is inspected in the presence of the student, if possible.
- Any damage (other than fair wear and tear) is reported to the Music Co-ordinator.
- Appropriate and necessary repairs are arranged by the school with due payment required.

### **STORAGE OF INSTRUMENTS:**

On the day/s instruments are brought to school for a lesson or rehearsal, students will store them in the instrumental storeroom in either the Music Block or Performing Arts Classroom as well as well as the School Hall Change Room or designated classroom.

### **PROGRAMME OF EXCELLENCE OUT-OF-CATCHMENT ENROLMENTS:**

Subject to available Student Enrolment Capacity, places will only be available to out-of-catchment enrolments if they satisfy the McDowall State School's criteria for placement in the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Programme of Excellence and that the defined number of places have not yet been filled by enrolments from within catchment. (*Refer to Approved Plan*)

- **Student attitude and commitment:** Keeness, musical aptitude, behaviour standard, etc.
- **Student physical characteristics:** Pertinent to instrumentation.
- **Parent commitment:** Signed Instrumental Music Commitment Form and instrument.
- **Student assessment:** Pitch recognition, melody memory and rhythm recognition.
- **Student audition:** Meeting Year Level Instrumental Music Curriculum Level Standard.



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE CALENDAR:

In addition to the weekly tutorials and ensemble rehearsals, the following events require student attendance and performance within the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence. This programme will be refined early in the new school year. Amendments, dates, times, costs and travel arrangements will be advised (*when known*).

Term	When	Event
Term 2	May	Education Qld Fanfare or Qld Youth Music Awards
	June	Performing Arts Celebration Concert 1 (Evening / Senior Ensembles)
	June	Morning Melodies Concert (Junior Ensembles)
	June	Regional North side Junior Strings Workshop (Years 4-5)
	June	Regional North side Junior Band Workshop (Years 4-5)

Term	When	Event
Term 3	August	Student Concerts & Battle of the Bands (Presto Strings Vs Rode Band)
	August	Grandparents' Morning – Chamber Group
	September	McDowall SS Great Busking Competition
	September	Performing Arts Chamber Music Concert (Evening)
	September	Regional Honours Music Workshop (Via audition)
	September	Regional Intermediate Music Muster

Term	When	Event
Term 4	October	Battle of the Bands (Keona Band & Cantabile Strings)
	October	Celebration of Childhood Preparatory Year Open Morning (Small Groups)
	October	Brisbane Band Festival or Music Fest
	November	Performing Arts Celebration Concert (Matinee / Evening)
	December	Instrumental Music On Tour (Year 6) By Invitation
	December	Year 6 Presentations Assembly (Chamber Group)

- Recess Concerts are held on various dates during the school year.
- School Assembly Performances are held on various dates during the school year. Each instrumental ensemble performs at least once.

Instrumental Music performances will be scheduled on formal assembly during the school year.

Performances are opportunities for students' hard work to go on show. The McDowall State School bands, ensembles and chamber groups perform throughout the year. Students are expected to attend scheduled performances and functions as a **condition of continued inclusion** within the programme, as **every** absence adversely affects the quality of the overall performance thus disadvantaging all other students. From time to time, there may be a problem with scheduled attendance, and these need to be discussed (well in advance of the performance date) with the Instrumental Music Teacher and/or Music Co-ordinator, with view toward mutual resolution.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS:

Instrumental Music tuition commences in Year 3 for strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. It is **expected** that students will **continue on their instrument through to Year 6** and beyond into secondary education. It takes many years to master an instrument. The McDowall State School seeks to both celebrate the achievements of the student and the programme through public performance whether solo and/or band, ensemble or chamber group.



### Small Group Tuition

Instrumental Music Tutorial Lessons are timetabled in school time, usually once each week. Days and times are advised at the beginning of each year when Instrumental Music Teacher availability is confirmed. Each lesson is usually 30mins in length and is conducted on a group basis with approximately 6 students learning together at a set time each week. Groups are created according to type of instrument, availability of instrument; and ability of students. On occasions, these classes are made up of a mixture of instrumentation.

### Whole Class Ensemble Lesson

Students in Instrumental Music Immersion Classes will attend a timetabled weekly Music Lesson with the Instrumental Music Teacher, and likely with the Developmental Music teacher providing support.

### Band or Ensemble Rehearsal

Bands, ensembles and group practice is scheduled either before or after school, or during recess. Students are placed in a band/ensemble that meet their level of skill.

- Instrumental Music Lesson Timetables are:
  - Placed on the McDowall State School website or issued to students.
  - Provided to Class Teachers for display within the classroom.
  - Displayed on the Music Block and Performing Arts Classroom Notice Board.
- Students are expected to assume a high level of self-responsibility in ensuring both knowledge of and punctual attendance at timetabled lessons.
- Instrumental Music Timetables may change to accommodate changes in regular School Timetables or that of the Instrumental Music Teacher. Advance notice (where possible) is issued through note, email or the 'Tartan Times'.
- Students are to be punctual to lessons, rehearsals and concerts.
- Entry to the Music Block for Instrumental Music Lessons will be via the foyer door.
- Students are to bring their instrument, Method Book, ensemble music, pencil and Practice Record Card with them to each Instrumental Music Lesson.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER ABSENCE:

Instrumental Music Teachers often work across a number of schools each week, being scheduled by the Regional Instrumental Music Co-ordinator. Occasionally, commitments in other schools prevent attendance at McDowall State School. Instrumental Music Teachers may endeavour to make up this lost time over future weeks **IF** school timetables, time demands and room availability permit. Instrumental Music Teachers are also involved in District and Regional Music Events and Workshops (Eg. Regional Honours and Music Muster Workshops, Band Blitz). On these occasions, make-up classes are not usually possible.

Most absences are known in advance so students are informed at preceding lessons and/or on school assembly and/or through the 'Tartan Times' and/or through issue of short notice; and in all cases, on the Music Block Notice or Performing Arts Classroom Board.

Should illness or other emergent issue prevent an Instrumental Music Teacher from attending the McDowall State School, it is often not possible to provide advance notice to students, other than a message on the day to the Class Teacher and posted onto the Music Block or Performing Arts Notice Board. Instrumental Music Teachers are not replaced if they are absent, therefore, all tutorials and before/after school band and ensemble rehearsals will be cancelled.

Note that a Music Lesson will still be delivered by the Music Teacher should an Instrumental Teacher be absent.

Should a rehearsal be scheduled before school and the Instrumental Music Teacher be absent, as soon as School Administration is notified, a member of staff will attend the music rehearsal room to meet with or advise students. Should the Instrumental Music Teacher not arrive for an ensemble practice, students are to wait outside the music rehearsal room until 15 minutes past the scheduled rehearsal time, alert School Administration, then return to the General Under Cover Waiting Area.

### INSTRUMENT PRACTICE:

The McDowall State School expects that students practise with their instrument for up to 30 minutes a day. However, for beginners, this may not be possible until they gain a little more muscle strength, lung capacity and ability. The Practice Record Sheet is to be signed and dated by the parent at the end of each practise session. The Practice Record Sheet is to be brought to each Instrumental Music Lesson so that teachers can monitor the duration and regularity of practice. **Student failure to practise playing their instrument, will eventually result in student withdrawal from the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Programme of Excellence.**



### HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

Read this with your parents. Follow the hints to make your practice time more enjoyable and rewarding.

1. Find a place to play where you won't be disturbed.
2. Place your music on a music stand.
3. Start your practice session with a warm up, such as long notes (in a scale if applicable), and then with something you can play well and enjoy.
4. Practise some exercises for a few minutes.
5. Now work on the new piece or the difficult piece from your last lesson.
  - a) Play the piece right through slowly.
  - b) Start at the beginning again. When you come to a difficult bit stop - decide which notes are giving you trouble and practise them *slowly* over and over again. Don't play them faster until you can do them easily.
  - c) Do the same with any other difficult bits in the piece.
  - d) Play the whole piece through again quite slowly.
  - e) Play the whole piece through at the proper speed.

6. Now work on a piece you know quite well but would like to know better. Listen critically to the sound you are making and try to play as beautifully as possible.
7. Reward yourself for your good work by ending with your favourite piece.

**If you are having trouble:**

- Are you sure you know the notes?
- Do you understand the timing? Take the trouble to work these things out and if you still can't manage, ask for help at your next lesson.
- Then, fill in the Practice Record Sheet for the day and have your parent initial it.

## PROGRAMME DISCONTINUATION:

Student inclusion within the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence is by selection on the basis of suitability, within a context of personal commitment, instruction time and equipment availability. **Students, upon accepting a competitive place within the programme, are expected to meet their documented commitment and participation within the programme for at least the full school year.** Should a student withdraw from the programme and at a future time seek to re-enter the programme, the student will need to reapply and be considered for any future placement along with all other applicants for the beginning of the next new school year. This includes any sought after change from either Strings or Band Ensemble / Music Programme.

**“Student Withdrawal ...”** A parent must consult the Instrumental Music Teacher and Deputy Principal prior to terminating a student's participation in the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence. The Deputy Principal will advise of the decision to both parent and student regarding (a) Programme withdrawal (b) Whether any fee reimbursement will/will not apply (c) Whether withdrawal will affect any future consideration for student re-entry into the Programme.



The expectations and commitments that both student and parent endorse when being offered placement within the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence highlight not only the value that is held regarding this programme and the investment made in its operation but also the acknowledgement that when a student does not meet required standards and/or attend scheduled rehearsals and performances then all others within the programme are adversely affected, both in the short and medium term. **It is expected that**

**a student will remain within the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence for a full school year.** Withdrawal will not usually be considered until the next school year.

**“Show Cause ...”** Students may be required to show cause to the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator and/or Instrumental Music Teacher, as to why they should not be withdrawn from the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme for any or all of the following:

- Not having endorsed the ‘McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence – Commitment Form’.
- Having **breached conditions** as outlined within the ‘McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme – Commitment Form’.
- Not having endorsed the ‘McDowall State School Instrumental Hire Agreement Form’ (if required) required annually.

- Not having paid McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence Fees as invoiced by the stated due date/s.
- Wilful damage or destruction through intent or neglect, of a McDowall State School instrument and/or having not paid for the instrumental repair (at a standard required by the Principal or his delegate) as invoiced by the stated due date.
- Not presenting a parent endorsed 'Practice Record' which outlines student practice times on their instrument at the required duration (30mins per day for at least 5 days each week) with such practice evident in playing the instrument.
- Punctual attendance at scheduled ensemble, band and/or chamber group rehearsals and performances. (Absence requires written note of explanation for rehearsal. Absence requires advance notice or contact to the Instrumental Teacher for performances. 'Show Cause' will be issued at discretion of Music Co-ordinator and/or Instrumental Music Teacher)
- Punctual class attendance at scheduled Instrumental Music Lessons. (Absence requires written note of explanation). 'Show Cause' will be issued at discretion of Music Co-ordinator and/or Instrumental Music Teacher.
- Not having an approved McDowall State School Instrumental Music Band Uniform to wear at scheduled concerts and performances (including black shoes).
- Not having a suitable instrument (if purchasing) and/or having an instrument (purchased or hired) at scheduled lessons, rehearsals and performances (including required consumables) to play.
- Student attitude and general behaviour evident at school is less than an A-B Rating.

**A 'Show Cause' may result in the students being placed in another Year Level class group.**

### **SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES:**

The McDowall State School acknowledges and values the team nature of the Instrumental Music Programme which affords each student an opportunity to play in a traditional music ensemble e.g. band, string ensemble.

The following instrumental groups may be formed within the programme. These include:

Rode Band (Yrs 5-6 select students)	Presto Strings (Yrs 4, 5, 6 advanced students)
Keona Band (Yrs 4-6 select students)	Cantabile Strings (Yrs 4-6 intermediate students)
Metro Band (Yrs 4-5 select students)	Adagio Strings (Yrs 4-5 2 <sup>nd</sup> year players)
Stage Band (TBA)	Chamber Group
Band (Yr 3 beginners)	Strings (Yr 3 beginners)



Formation of these groups is subject to student numbers, available instrumentation, the performance standard of students, the availability of allocated time to the school and teachers and rehearsal spaces. All groups are allocated one rehearsal per week. Rehearsal times and frequency may vary according to:

- performance demands on the group;
- availability and willingness of the conductor and students to attend additional rehearsals;
- availability of rehearsal time; and,
- availability of rehearsal space.

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals (punctually) and contribute positively and constructively to the group. It is also expected that all students participate in **all** public performances. If a situation arises whereby this is not realistically possible, a written letter or parent contact with the Instrumental Music Teacher or School Music Co-ordinator is required well in advance of the event. Student absences adversely affect band sound and performance quality.

All students receiving tuition at school are expected to participate in a school ensemble (band) suited to their ability level, as determined by the Instrumental Music Teacher. Students who learn privately may audition to be included in one of the school ensembles.

Students are placed in their school ensemble group at the beginning of each year (Metro Band in Term 2). After liaising with the School Music Coordinator, an Instrumental Music Teacher may change a student from one group to another. Chamber groups may be formed, with agreement of Instrumental Music Teachers & Music Co-ordinator and without effect on other group rehearsals.

Ensembles are rostered to perform at school functions, events and at other times during the school year, on a rotational basis. Ensemble students need to purchase a green Band Folder. This is to ensure that the school's music is well cared for and kept neat and tidy. Folders are purchased from the School P&C Association Uniform Shop.



### **BAND UNIFORMS:**

All members of performing ensembles, bands and groups are required to wear the correct McDowall State School Instrumental Music Programme of Excellence Uniform when performing in public or at other advised events. Items are available for purchase or hire through the School P&C Association Uniform Shop. An Information Letter and Order Form will be issued to parents early in Term 1.

### **PERFORMANCE UNIFORM: METRO BAND, ADAGIO STRINGS**

Members of the Beginning Ensembles wear the McDowall State School Tartan Uniform.

Boys Uniform		Girls Uniform	
Shirt	McDowall Tartan	Shirt	McDowall Tartan
Shorts	Bottle green	Shorts	Bottle green
		Skorts	Bottle green
Socks	School socks – bottle green	Socks	School socks – bottle green
Shoes	<i>Black</i> shoes or sneakers (Mandatory)	Shoes	<i>Black</i> shoes or sneakers (Mandatory)
		Dress*	Tartan (red buttons)

\* Tartan Dress is acceptable but is not preferred. It poses difficulty for Instrumental Music performers.

### **PERFORMANCE UNIFORM: RODE BAND, KEONA BAND, PRESTO STRINGS, CANTABILE STRINGS & CHAMBER GROUP**

Boys Uniform		Girls Uniform	
Shirt	White long-sleeved shirt	Shirt	White long-sleeved shirt
Trousers	Black flat front	Trousers	Black flat front
Vest^	Tartan vest	Vest^	Tartan vest
Socks	Black	Socks	Black
Shoes	<i>Black</i> shoes or sneakers (Mandatory)	Shoes	<i>Black</i> shoes or sneakers (Mandatory)

All dress items are available from the School P&C Association Uniform Shop.

Pay \$40 Band Vest Hire Deposit + either \$15 (one year hire fee) or \$30 (two year hire fee).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### 1. How do I contact my child's Instrumental Music Teacher?

Instrumental Music Teachers work at several schools each week. If you wish to speak to an Instrumental Music Teacher, contact the school and leave a message requesting a phone call or meeting. The Instrumental Music Teacher will contact you when they are next able to do so. If you have an administrative or general question, please contact the school's Music Coordinator for assistance. Instrumental Music teachers find email a preferred means of contact.

### 2. How is student progress communicated?

Instrumental Music Reports to parents are included within the Student Progress Reports issued at the end of each semester. Please note that the Developmental Music Programme is very different both in terms of content and student expectation, to that of the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme.

### 3. When do lessons commence?

Lessons commence as soon as possible from the second week of the school year. Please ensure that your child has all of the requirements for their tuition, as listed in the offer information. Rehearsals for continuing students will begin around the same time. The formation of ensembles **will be dependent on student ability and progress.**

### 4. How long will my child be able to use a school instrument?

Students in Year 3 and 4 may hire a school instrument. Instruments will be maintained and repaired during the period of the hire as organised by the school. Instruments will be collected and serviced at the end of the school year. To continue Instrumental Music tuition, students will be required to purchase their own instrument. Years 5-6 students may hire the following instruments:

Cello, Double Bass, Euphonium, French Horn, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet and Tuba.

### 5. What if I damage the school instrument or it does not play properly?

Take the instrument to your child's Instrumental Music Teacher immediately. Sometimes the IM teacher will be able to do a simple repair on the instrument without having to send the instrument to an outside repairer. If the instrument cannot be repaired by the IM teacher they will advise you about recommended repairers and instrument service centres.

## CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT: FLUTE

### Assembling Your Instrument

1. Hold the head joint in your left hand and the middle joint in your right hand away from the key mechanism. Put these two sections together. Line up the hole in the embouchure plate with the centre of the tone holes.
2. Hold the assembled head and middle joints in your left hand. Gently twist on the foot joint so that it is centred with the tone holes.

### Before Putting Your Flute Back In Its Case, Do The Following

1. Dry the inside of your instrument thoroughly by putting a soft clean cloth on the end of your cleaning rod and drawing it through the middle joint and foot joint.
2. Shake the water out of the head joint. Dry the inside thoroughly with the cloth on cleaning rod.
3. Wipe the inside and outside of the connecting joints with the cloth.
4. Wipe off each section of your flute to keep the finish clean.

NEVER USE SILVER POLISH ON YOUR FLUTE.

**Remember**

1. Never leave your instrument in the sun or in hot places in or out of the case.
2. Do not let others blow your instrument. Hygiene.
3. Wipe your instrument down after each practice session.
4. Always handle your instrument with care, as repairs are costly.
5. At home, keep your instrument in a safe place, away from younger brothers and sisters.

NEVER PLACE BOOKS OR OTHER MATERIAL IN YOUR CASE AS THIS MAY DAMAGE KEYS.

## CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT: CLARINET

**Assembling Your Instrument**

1. Remove the reed from its case and put it in your mouth to soak it.
2. Lubricate all the corks with the cork grease as needed.
3. Hold the lower joint in your left hand and press down the rings onto the tone holes. Gently twist on the bell section. Be careful not to bend the keys or rods of the lower joint.
4. Hold the lower joint and bell with your right hand at their connecting joints. Hold the upper joint with your left hand and, with your fingers, press down on the rings of the tone holes. **THE BRIDGE KEYS MUST BE RAISED.** Gently twist these two sections together with a slight back and forth motion. Line up the two bridge keys. Be careful not to bend the keys or rods.
5. Hold the upper joint as before and gently twist on the barrel.
6. Hold your instrument at the connecting joint of the barrel and upper joint. Gently twist the mouthpiece into the barrel. Line up the flat side of the mouthpiece with the register key.
7. Check the alignment of all the parts of the clarinet.

**Before Putting Your Clarinet Back In Its Case, Do The Following**

1. Remove the reed. Wipe off the excess moisture with a cloth.
2. Place the reed in its case so that it will dry thoroughly.
3. Remove the mouthpiece and wipe out the inside with your pull through.
4. Remove the barrel and draw a cotton or chamois swab through it once or twice.
5. Remove the upper joint and drop the weight of the pull through the TOP end of the upper joint, pulling it through a few times. (The pull through may get stuck if it is dropped in from the bottom end.)
6. Repeat the process on the lower joint and bell.
7. Wipe each joint dry with the cloth.

NEVER USE SILVER POLISH ON THE KEYS.

**Remember**

1. Never leave your instrument in the sun or in hot places in or out of the case.
2. Do not let others blow your instrument. Hygiene.
3. Wipe your instrument down after each practice session.
4. Clean out your mouthpiece and reed after use. (Carry cloth in case.)
5. Always handle your instrument with care, as repairs are costly.
6. At home, keep your instrument in a safe place, away from younger brothers and sisters.

NEVER PLACE BOOKS OR OTHER MATERIAL IN YOUR CASE AS THIS MAY DAMAGE KEYS.

## CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT: SAXOPHONE

**Assembling Your Instrument**

1. Remove the reed from its case and put it in your mouth to soak.
2. Put the neck strap around your neck.
3. Lubricate the cork on the neck with cork grease as needed.
4. Remove the instrument from the case. Hook it to the neck strap.



5. Place the neck into the top of the instrument. Be careful not to bend the octave key lever.
6. Tighten the neck screw.
7. With the weight of the saxophone on the neck strap and your knee, hold the neck with your left hand. Gently twist on the mouthpiece so that approximately half of the cork is covered.
8. Align the flat side of the mouthpiece with the octave key.

### **Before Putting Your Saxophone Back In Its Case, Do The Following**

1. Remove the reed. Wipe off excess moisture with your fingers.
2. Place the reed in its case so that it will dry thoroughly.
3. Remove the mouthpiece and wipe out the inside with a soft clean cloth.
4. Remove the neck and shake the moisture out of each end.
5. Place the soft end of the neck cleaner into the large end of the neck. Draw it back and forth until the neck is dry.
6. Drop the weight of the swab into the bell and out the other end. Put the swab through the body several times.
7. Wipe the connecting joint clean with the cloth.
8. Wipe off the outside of your saxophone with the cloth.

NEVER USE SILVER POLISH ON THE SAXOPHONE.

### **Remember**

1. Never leave your instrument in the sun or in hot places in or out of the case.
2. Do not let others blow your instrument. Hygiene.
3. Wipe your instrument down after each practice session.
4. Clean out your mouthpiece and reed after use. (Carry cloth in case.)
5. Always handle your instrument with care, as repairs are costly.
6. At home, keep your instrument in a safe place, away from younger brothers and sisters.

NEVER PLACE BOOKS OR OTHER MATERIAL IN YOUR CASE AS THIS MAY DAMAGE KEYS.

## **CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT: BRASS**

### **The Mouthpiece**

The mouthpiece is, as personal as a toothbrush. For hygiene reasons, it should be washed daily. The bore may be cleaned with a pipe stem cleaner or a mouthpiece brush. Should the mouthpiece become stuck in the instrument, NEVER use pliers to remove it. Forcing the mouthpiece in any way may cause costly damage to the mouthpiece and the instrument. Let your Music Teacher or the Retailer attend to it.

### **Monthly Cleaning**

Remove all slides and pistons. Wash the body of the instrument and parts in a solution of lukewarm water and liquid detergent. The inside of the tubing can be cleaned with a flexible brush. Rinse all parts in fresh water and dry with a soft, lint free cloth. Before replacing the tubing and valve slide, coat thinly with Vaseline.

If the valves (pistons) do not work smoothly with water lubrication, use a drop or two of valve oil. Kerosene may be used as a substitute if you don't mind a slight smell. Note: Sewing machine oil etc is useless. Trombone slides can be lubricated with manufactured products like Trombone Slide Cream. If cream is used, spread a small amount on the 'stockings' (the enlarged section on the inner slides). Rotary valves as used on French Horns MUST NOT be dismantled. They are oiled through the valve slides, (6 to 8 drops) and at each end of the bearings using rotary valve oil.

### **External Cleaning**

Gold and silver finishers should be wiped over with a damp chamois type cloth to remove dirt and finger marks. Dry with a soft cloth.

**Regular Maintenance**

A weekly flush through with warm water in between monthly cleaning, plus regular use and careful handling will keep your brass instrument in good order.

**CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT: STRINGS****Assembling Your Instrument**

1. Place the shoulder rest on the violin, taking care not to scratch the surface of the instrument. For cello & bass – measure the end pin to correct length then tighten the screw.
2. Tighten your bow with the adjusting screw. Be careful not to over-tighten.
3. Rosin your bow.
4. Check the bridge before playing. If it is not standing straight, ask your teacher to adjust it.

**Before Putting Your Strings Instrument Back In Its Case, Do The Following**

1. Remove the shoulder rest. For cello & bass – loosen the end pin screw, push in the end pin, then tighten the screw.
2. Wipe over your instrument with a soft cloth.
3. Loosen the tension of your bow.
4. Cello – take out your bow first. When packing up, put away your bow last.

**Remember**

1. Never leave your instrument in the sun or in hot places in or out of the case.
2. Do not let others play your instrument.
3. Handle your instrument, bow and case, with care, as repairs are costly.
4. At home, keep your instrument in a safe place, away from younger brothers and sisters.
5. Never place books or other material in the case.

DO NOT ATTEMPT YOUR OWN REPAIRS. ONLY AN EXPERT MUSICAL INSTRUMENT REPAIR PERSON HAS THE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE TO REPAIR YOUR INSTRUMENT.