

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Instrumental Music Program

Information Booklet

2026



Instrumental Music Program Information Booklet

St Joseph's will be offering the Instrumental Music Program in 2026. The program will be offered to students who will be in Year 3 and higher in 2026. These students will be given the opportunity to learn woodwind, brass and percussion instruments within the school educational program. The benefits of learning to play a musical instrument are well documented. Music participation enhances teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, coordination, self-confidence, concentration and much more.

The instruments being offered in this program are Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Bass Guitar, and Percussion, including the Glockenspiel (Xylophone).

At the back of this booklet is an *enrolment form* for the program. If you have read the details of the program and are interested in enrolling your child, please complete the form and return it to the school office by Friday, 7th November 2025 (term 4, week 5).

Costs

Group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson and payment is made directly to the Instrumental Music Teacher each term by the invoice due date. No refunds are available if the student is absent. Accounts are to be paid within 30 days of receiving the invoice. PDF copies of the invoice will be e-mailed directly from **gcscholes18@gmail.com** to the parent from the Instrumental Music Teacher after the student's first lesson. If e-mail is not a viable option, please feel free to discuss other options with the Instrumental Music Teacher.

Group sizes are limited to four students. Groups are organised according to similar levels of proficiency in their instrument and instrument type. This may be re-evaluated after the first semester.

There are several instruments available for hire through the school at a cost of \$5.00 a week. These include 4 Flutes, 3 Clarinets, 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Trumpets, 2 Saxophones and 2 Trombones. There are 3 Bass Guitars with amps for hire at \$10 a week, this increased cost is due to the hire of two pieces of equipment.

Lesson Times

30 minute lessons are held weekly, during class time, on a *rotating timetable*. Each teacher receives a copy of the timetable at the beginning of each term, and it is the student's responsibility to make sure they are at their lessons.

REQUIREMENTS

INSTRUMENT

Purchasing

You may choose to buy your own instrument, or you may already have one. Buying a secondhand instrument can be a good alternative but we suggest you take the instrument to a qualified repairer for their opinion on quality and price.

Hiring

Locally, Green Brothers Music in Rockhampton has hire-to-own instruments through Studio 19. The staff are very knowledgeable and will be able to assist you with all your instrument hiring needs.

Renting a school instrument

The school has 4 Flutes, 3 Clarinets, 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Trumpets, 2 Saxophones, 2 Trombones and 3 Bass Guitars with amp, which are available for hire. The hire fee is \$5.00 per week (\$10 per week for the Bass Guitars with amps) and these instruments are hired on a semester basis. (This will be added to your school fees) through the school library. An instrument that has been hired to your child is expected to be returned to the school library upon completion of the school year, or if your child leaves the instrumental music program.

Hire instruments will be offered to new students first. Continuing students will be offered hire instruments after all new students have been allocated their required instruments. If there are no hire instruments to offer to continuing students, you will be required to purchase an instrument.

Please note: Snare drums and glockenspiels are not available for hire.

The instruments are allocated based on the date and time the enrolment forms are received at the office. While the instrument is hired you will be responsible for repairs. For the Clarinets and Saxophones you will need to supply your own reeds.

The allocation of the bass guitar may also depend on the suitability of the students for the instrument and the final decision will be made by the school if several applicants apply.

All instruments come with extra items necessary for using and caring for the instrument. These are listed on the instrument case and if lost or damaged are required to be replaced. Please feel free to discuss the suitability and availability of instruments with the instrumental music teacher.

Requirements for specific instruments

♫ Clarinet & Saxophone

You will need to purchase reeds for these instruments. Beginners normally start with size 1½ and gradually move up the sizes to 2 then 2½ etc. It is a good idea to have a reed a size larger to try out periodically. As student's mouth muscles strengthen, stronger reeds are required. You will need cork grease to apply to the cork joints on the instrument. New instruments can be particularly difficult to assemble. A cleaning cloth is also necessary, as the instrument should be cleaned after each session of playing. These cloths are specially designed and should be purchased if you do not have one.

♫ Trumpet & Trombone

You will need valve oil and slide cream for the trumpet or trombone. The valves need oiling regularly to avoid sticking. A few drops of oil on each valve is sufficient and it is important to replace the valves to their exact orientation, otherwise the instrument will not work. A small amount of slide cream should be applied to the tuning slide occasionally. The tuning slide should be left closed when the instrument is not being played to avoid corrosion. A polishing cloth is important for buffing the metal.

♫ Percussion

You will need to purchase drumsticks. There is a large range available at music stores and students can choose whatever suits them. You will also need a snare drum and/or drum practice pad for home practice. During lesson times students will use the school drums and other percussion instruments so there is no need to bring the snare drum to school.

♫ Glockenspiel

If your child can play the piano and is interested in playing with the band, they may like to learn to play the glockenspiel, as it is very similar to a piano keyboard. A small glockenspiel, similar to the ones that are used in classroom music, is needed for home practice. The school has 2 performance glockenspiels and these are used in lesson time so there is no need to bring your glockenspiel to school for lessons.

TUITION BOOK

The school uses the "Standard of Excellence" series as the tuition books. Each instrument has a separate book and the first book, "Standard of Excellence - Book 1", more commonly known as the red book, is available to be borrowed through the school library. When students reach "Standard of Excellence - Book 2", more commonly known as the blue book, on average after 2-3 years, you will need to purchase your own book. A note will be sent out to parent/s when their child progresses onto the "Standard of Excellence – Book 2".

Practice

It is expected that the students practice for a minimum of **half an hour per week**. This can be in one session or in shorter, more frequent, sessions. The latter is preferable for brass instruments. Also, if your child is learning a brass instrument there are a number of mutes available from music stores that allow your child to practice with a much softer instrument. The school does not provide mutes.

Uniforms

Students in the band will be required to have a white shirt, black trousers/long skirt and black shoes as part of the formal band uniform. A band vest will be issued to each band member for performances and these need to be returned after the performance. They are kept at the school at all times unless a special arrangement is made.

Band

As students reach an appropriate level of proficiency in their instrument, they are invited to join the band. As each student learns differently the time that this level is achieved can vary.

Performances

The band performs several times per year and, where possible, it is important to prioritise these events. We usually perform at the following events.

♪ St Joseph's Parish Fair – November

Optional Requirements

♪ *Music stand*

It is important that beginner instrumentalists play with good posture with the music in the right position. Music stands vary in price but an adequate one for home practice costs \$20 - \$30.

Enrolment

There is an enrolment form at the end of this booklet that needs to be completed if you would like your child to attend the Instrumental Music Program in 2026. The first enrolment form is for new students. The second form is for continuing students.

Please note: if I have not received an enrolment form for your child, they will not be given a place in the Instrumental Music Program next year. All enrolment forms need to be returned to the office by Friday, 7th November 2025 (term 4, week 5), as this gives the instrumental teacher time to arrange timetables and complete the necessary paperwork to inform all parents of their child's acceptance into the program in the last week of Term Four 2025.

Meghan Wilton
Instrumental Music Teacher

Email: gcscholes18@gmail.com
Phone: 0428 188 653

St Joseph's
Instrumental
Music Program:
Instrument
Descriptions

Flute

The Flute is a long silver instrument that is played sideways by pressing down keys and blowing over a mouthpiece. It makes a high sound.



Alto Saxophone

The Alto Saxophone is a Gold instrument that works similar to a Clarinet and uses a reed with the mouthpiece to create the sounds. It creates mid level sounds.



Clarinet

The Clarinet is a long black instrument that is played by pressing down keys and using a reed and a mouthpiece to create a mid level sound.



Bass Guitar

The Bass Guitar is a guitar with four strings. It is an electric instrument and requires an amplifier to make its sound. A Bass Guitar makes low sounds.



Trumpet

The Trumpet is a gold instrument that is held out from the body and is played by pressing down valves blowing through the mouthpiece. It creates mid level sounds.



Glockenspiel

The Glockenspiel is another name for a Xylophone. It is played by hitting metal keys with a mallet. For the school program you will need to purchase your own as these are unable to be hired from the school.



Snare Drum

This is a snare drum. It is played by hitting the top with wooden sticks. For the school program you will need to purchase your own drum sticks and a drum practise pad for home practise as drums are not available for hire.



Instrumental Program
New Student Enrolment Form for 2026
(Wind, Brass and Percussion Instruments)

Student's name _____ **Year level (2025):** _____

My child/ren would like to play Their second choice would be

Costs

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson. No refunds are available if the student is absent.

Instrument: *(Please circle which option you would prefer)*

A) I have or am arranging my own instrument

OR

B) I am interested in the school instrument loan system

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name

(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

I would like to have the invoice sent to me via e-mail Y/N

E-mail address.....

(This will be the e-mail address that invoices are sent to).

Parent's signature Phone number

Completed at school office

Date received Time received

Received by

Instrumental Program
Continuing Student Enrolment Form for 2026
(Wind, Brass and Percussion Instruments)

Student's name _____ Year level (2025): _____

My child/ren would like to play Their second choice would be

Costs

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson. No refunds are available if the student is absent.

Instrument: *(Please circle which option you would prefer)*

A) I have or am arranging my own instrument

OR

B) I am interested in the school instrument loan system

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name

(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

I would like to have the invoice sent to me via e-mail Y/N

E-mail address.....

(This will be the e-mail address that invoices are sent to).

Parent's signature Phone number

Completed at school office

Date received Time received

Received by