

What if my child is not offered a place in the Year 3 program?

If your child does not receive an offer at the end of year 2, they are probably being considered for the year 4 woodwind, brass or percussion program (depending on the suitability requirements outlined in the criteria). Please feel free to discuss this with Mrs Patti Courtice or the instrumental teachers if you are concerned.

Who should I talk to about the program?

This instrumental program has developed and improved over the years so you are best to talk with Mrs Patti Courtice at the Senior Campus.

Please email pcour2@eq.edu.au



Mackay West State School offers an extensive Performing Arts Program from Prep to Year 6. The music program has a team of teachers: Mrs Patti Courtice, Ms Kristen Pengelly and Mrs Priscilla Catling, who challenge the students in all areas of music.



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2023 Instrumental Program



Mackay West State School

"Always our Best"



String Ensemble



Senior Concert Band

I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning. *Plato*

Introduction

Our school's Instrumental Program is a distinctive aspect of our total Arts Program. Instrumental Music is a recognized QCAA subject that falls under the same teaching, learning and assessment framework as subjects such as Maths and English.

The following information outlines the processes involved in our school's instrumental program. Our recruiting process has been refined over the years and is aimed at effectively matching students to instruments. This ensures a successful, long-term participation for each student in this program.



How are Children Selected?

A range of criteria are used to assess each child's suitability. These criteria not only include musicality factors, but also the student's work habits, outside of school commitments and classroom behaviour. Instrumental music commences in year 3 and continues throughout the years up to year 6. While some of the children are ready in year 3 to commence instrumental tuition in the school environment, other children may need longer to develop their physical and mental skills, behaviour and classroom work habits. Learning an instrument is very demanding and commitment from not only the child but the family is very important if the child is going to succeed in the program. Children are continually being monitored by the classroom music teacher and when they show readiness parents will be contacted and arrangements will be made for them to join our program.

The staff involved in the consultation and decision making process are:

Mr Paul Manttan, Principal

Mrs Patti Courtice, Classroom Music Teacher

Mrs Priscilla Catling, Instrumental Teacher
(Woodwind/Brass/Percussion)

Ms Kristen Pengelly, Instrumental Teacher (Strings)

Classroom Teachers from each relevant year level

Placing Students

Our program involves two instrumental teachers: Ms. Kristen Pengelly who provides our strings tuition and Mrs. Priscilla Catling who provides our woodwind, brass and percussion tuition. They attend our school for two days per week only. This means that we can only offer placements to a certain number of students in our program. The school also has a limited number of instruments for hire. We commence placing students in either our year 3 strings program or look at them possibly for our year 4 program in woodwind, brass or percussion. They will be monitored in year 3.



Should I buy an instrument now?

Definitely not! This will not guarantee a place in our program for your child. A child may not be ready for the responsibilities and demands of effective participation in the school instrumental music program. A child who is not physically ready for an instrument will struggle to develop the technical requirements. Please wait until you have been notified in writing that your child is successful.

How will we know if our child has been selected?

Throughout term 3, the recruitment process begins for all year 2 students and those year 3 students who are not already in the strings program. The instrumental teachers, classroom music teachers and classroom teachers assess each child's suitability for possible inclusion in the program.

Parents/guardians of the children selected will be notified in writing or by phone. The first round of offers will go out in term 4 and second and third round of offers will follow.

Please note that if your child is successful in the first round of offers they will be offered a school instrument on loan for one school year only. *After this time the parent must agree to purchase an instrument for their child.* Parents must agree to this before the child is placed in the program.

Once a child is placed in the program they cannot change from one program (strings) to another (woodwind, brass, percussion) or vice versa.

Parents must also ensure their child has all the essential requirements before their first instrumental lesson commences in 2023.