

LONGREACH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Instrumental Music Program



Handbook 2022



Introduction

The Instrumental Music Program was established by Education Queensland to give students a chance to learn a musical instrument. Tuition is based around a mandated curriculum and regular assessments and performances are part of the program. Tuition is provided to students by Instrumental Teachers appointed to the school by Education Queensland.

Rationale

Music is a unique and integral part of life. It has the capacity to inspire all students' creativity and imagination, engage them in the art of expression, immerse them in a language and history that is rich in culture, provide them with opportunities beyond the classroom and excite them about life and learning. The skills, concepts and attitudes that students acquire as a result of music education benefit them not only during their schooling but also in the years beyond, whatever their chosen career path.

The overarching purpose of the co-curricular Instrumental Music Program is to provide students with the opportunity to become musicians by experiencing the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band or orchestral instrument and participating in concert bands and orchestras as performance ensembles. Instrumental Music is built on a comprehensive combination of learning styles and experiences. Students develop increasing confidence and musical sensitivity throughout their years of learning as they engage with progressively complex techniques and a broadening range of genres and styles of music.

As a compatible and complementary curriculum to those of primary and secondary classroom music and music extension programs, Instrumental Music provides opportunities for greater participation in, and enrichment of, music education for the whole school community. The program fosters opportunities for interaction between year levels through participation in school-based ensembles, as well as for cross-linking to other areas of the school curriculum.

Engagement in the program will improve the quality of perception and self-expression by fostering the acquisition of musical skills, thereby increasing aesthetic sensibility, cultural awareness and social-emotional engagement. Through the lens of music, students are empowered to make sense of their world.

Tuition is available on the following instruments:

Woodwind

Flute
Clarinet
Bass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone

Brass

Trumpet
French Horn
Trombone
Baritone
Euphonium

Percussion (all instruments)

Glockenspiel
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Drum Kit
Auxiliary Percussion

Bass Guitar

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REASONS TO LEARN A

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AT SCHOOL

IMPROVES MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

Did you know music and maths are a match made in heaven? By understanding beat, rhythm and scales, you will come on leaps and bounds in maths lessons! Many elements of music can be understood logically using simple mathematics, including division, fractions and patterns.

DEVELOPS PHYSICAL SKILLS AND COORDINATION

Learning a musical instrument can help develop coordination and motor skills. When reading notes on sheet music, the brain subconsciously converts that note into specific movements while also adding breaking and rhythm into the mix.

THE SOCIAL ASPECT

Working with others to make music is an incredibly rewarding and elating experience. Get to know your classmates at rehearsals and enjoy the shared success of your teamwork at that end of year school concert!

TEACHES RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSEVERANCE

Learning how to play an instrument requires hard work, responsibility and perseverance – all valuable life skills. It's down to you to take care of your instrument and make time to practise so that you become a piano perfectionist or a saxophone star!

BOOSTS SELF-ESTEEM

Making music and performing can be hugely rewarding. After hours of practise, it's a great feeling when those hard-to-crack pieces come together. Performing to friends and family will give you a huge sense of pride and a big self-esteem boost when the applause comes flooding in!

FOR JOY OR JOB

Above all else, learning a musical instrument is fun and will bring you hours and maybe years of enjoyment. Whether you head down a musical career path or simply play for the love of it, learning a musical instrument is a wonderful thing!



School Instrument Loans

There are limited instruments available to hire through Longreach State High School- if you require this, please contact the Instrumental Music teacher to discuss your options.

Where parents are considering the purchase of an instrument for their child, it is recommended that they consult with the Instrumental Music Teacher before making any purchase to ensure the best outcomes for students.

Equipment and Levy

From the start of 2021, all equipment necessary (excluding instruments) will be provided to students and the cost will be covered by a levy. This will include tutor books, music and any other consumable supplies such as reeds (within reason), valve oil etc. The cost of the IM Levy in 2022 is \$80

While it is not essential, it is preferable for students to have access to a music stand at home. Playing with a stand helps students to develop correct breathing, posture and practise skills.

Lessons

Lessons are conducted during school time, once a week. Each lesson is 35 minutes in length and occurs within a rotating timetable- this ensures that students are not missing out on the same session of classwork each week. The day will always be the same, unless prior notice is given due to school events. Lessons are generally in groups of 3-6 and are comprised of students in similar instrument families and/ or ability levels.

Ensembles & Performances

Longreach State High School Instrumental Music students have the opportunity to join a number of ensembles that are tiered to best suit your child's the stage of development. They are:

Longreach SHS Concert Band

All students enrolled in the instrumental music program.

Longreach Combined Schools Band

Comprised of students from Longreach State School, Ilfracombe State School and Longreach State High School. This group performs at a range of school and community events such as the Longreach Show, eisteddfods and other school events throughout the year. Some years may include a tour.

Rehearsal Times

| Ensemble | Day | Time | Venue |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Longreach SHS Concert Band | Thursday | 8:00am | Longreach State High School |
| Longreach Combined Schools Band | Wednesday | 3:30pm- 4:30pm | Longreach State School |

Being part of a band is not an optional extra- it is mandatory as part of students' involvement in the instrumental program. It is important that students attend all rehearsals punctually and with the necessary equipment. It is of course understandable that on occasion, students will be unable to attend due to various circumstances- we ask that parents notify us in advance where possible or send a follow up email notifying the IM Teacher so that rolls can be marked correctly.

Practice

The key to great practise is not necessarily how much you do, but how often! It is recommended that students do 15-45 minutes of practise 4- 5 times a week depending on their curriculum level.

All students will receive an Instrumental Music diary. This book will outline what students have been working on in their lessons and what they will need to do for work on during their practise at home.

Student & Parent Commitment

Every student must agree to:

1. Practice 4-5 times a week (15-45 minutes depending on their curriculum level). Students should practise a variety of band music, repertoire and scales.
2. Demonstrate a high level of appropriate behaviour when attending all practises and performances.
3. Regularly attend lessons and rehearsals as required. Attendance is monitored by the teacher. Missed lessons or rehearsals require a note.
4. Be punctual and prepared for all lessons and rehearsals. Students only have a limited amount of tuition each week during school time. Students need to arrive to their lessons and rehearsals with all their music, their instruments in working order and accessories.

Parents are required to:

1. Show interest in their child's playing no matter what their ability level may be
2. Provide a suitable instrument and keep it in good repair.
3. Facilitate a place for them to practise and encourage a consistent routine
4. Promote good care of instrument.
5. Make sure your child attends rehearsals on time each week.
6. Attend all performances to show your commitment and support.

Uniforms

All Longreach SHS IM students require a band uniform- this consists of the school band shirt paired with black trousers/ skirt with black socks/ stockings and closed in black shoes. Band shirts need to be purchased and are **only** to be worn as indicated by the Instrumental Music Teacher- it does not form part of the daily uniform.