



Parent Handbook 2026



Instrumental Music Program Strings & Woodwind-Brass-Percussion





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Checklist: Getting ready for the Instrumental Music Year

<u>1.</u>	Read the Parent Handbook carefully Please note that all forms are due to be submitted by Friday, 28 November .
<u>2.</u>	Complete and sign the following forms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolment Agreement via Survey Link Buderim Mountain State School Instrumental Music Enrolment Agreement – Fill out form or see QR code attached Complete and return the signed Loan Agreement Form (EQ11) to the School Office (see attached). Please complete only the yellow highlighted sections. <p>Once both forms have been submitted, you will receive payment information (invoices) for the Instrumental Levy in the new school year. Please note — do not send any money this year.</p>
<u>3.</u>	Instrument Requirements (Page 9) Be prepared to purchase the requirements list for your child's instrument before Week 2, 2026.
<u>4.</u>	Arts Shirt (Optional) There will be an optional Performing Arts shirt available for approximately \$40 to be worn during performances and on Fridays
<u>5.</u>	Instrument Selection Policy Once your child is accepted into the String Program or Band Program, they <u>will not be able to swap to a different instrument at any stage whilst enrolled at BMSS</u> <i>Students are also <u>not allowed</u> to learn two instruments within the Instrumental Music Program while at Buderim Mountain e.g. Violin plus Flute. Mastering one instrument requires daily practice and active participation in lessons and rehearsals. It is important for students to focus on mastering a single instrument to build a strong foundation before considering the option of learning a second one.</i>



Welcome

Welcome to the Buderim Mountain State School Instrumental Music Program (IMP).

The Queensland Education Department IMP is the envy of not only the rest of Australia, but indeed the world. Education Queensland proudly offers the Instrumental Music Program as a co-curricular subject with clear goals and objectives. The State administered curriculum covers 10 instructional levels up to 10 years of state schooling.

Each week an Instrumental music teacher visits our school to conduct ensemble rehearsals before school and provide half-hour lessons with small groups of music students during the school day. The program gives students the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and to develop individual and ensemble skills.

Their progress is then monitored, and they are invited to join an ensemble when their skills reach a suitable standard. Multi instrumental ensembles make regular in-school and in-public performances, which are equally enjoyable for both audiences and participants.

Initial enrolment in the program is for a minimum period of one year. Students are not generally allowed to leave the program unless there are special circumstances, which have been discussed with the Principal and the Instrumental Music Teacher. The school reserves the right to remove a student from the program and offer the instrument to another student on the waiting list if there is evidence of insufficient commitment.

No refund will be provided if your child withdraws from the program during the year (unless there are extenuating financial circumstances).

PLEASE NOTE: Year 2 students can only select a STRING INSTRUMENT, or they will need to wait till Year 3 to select a Band instrument.

We trust that your future involvement will bring much pleasure to both of you, and a lifetime of musical enjoyment.

Aims of the Program

The aims of the Education Queensland Instrumental Music Program are:

- ♪ to give students an interest and an enjoyment in making music with other students.
- ♪ to teach students playing skills and musical literacy knowledge needed to learn a String, Brass, Woodwind or Percussion instrument.
- ♪ to provide string ensemble/concert band experience, to develop and enhance group performance skills through school and community performances and to complement and add an extra dimension to the school's music program.
- ♪ to complement classroom and choral music programs in the development of music throughout the school.
- ♪ to provide an extra dimension to the school music program.



Recruitment Process

Students must pass through each step to be invited to participate in the Instrumental Music Program.

1. **Expression of Interest:** Parents and children receive an online note to read, consider and complete. This will indicate that, should their child be successful, they wish their child to be a part of the instrumental Music Program the following year and that they are prepared to provide ongoing support for their child.
The 'Expression of Interest' Form must be completed online before progression to the next step.
2. **Selmer Survey:** All Interested students undertake the Selmer Survey. This is a musical aptitude test on pitch, melody, harmony and rhythm. The purpose is to determine their skills on tonal memory, ability to tell the difference among tones, ability to recognise repeated musical phrases, rhythmic counting abilities and the ability to differentiate between rhythmic patterns. The results from this survey greatly help to determine success with particular instruments.
3. **Classroom teacher and Music teacher feedback:** to determine whether the student is best able to succeed in the program:
 - ♪ Academic Ability
 - ♪ Cooperation with Teacher
 - ♪ Cooperation with other students
 - ♪ Reliability/Attendance
 - ♪ Ability to Work Independently
 - ♪ Effort
 - ♪ Behaviour
4. **Instrument testing for Band** will be done in small groups, completed by the Instrumental Music Teacher and will take place during class time. The testing of all instruments involves the following:
 - ♪ Trying each student with the mouthpiece and/or instrument (mouthpieces are cleaned between students)
 - ♪ To check the ability to produce a sound on the instrument
 - ♪ To check the size of the student in relation to the instrument
 - ♪ Physical factors depend on:
 - ♪ (Teeth/mouth formation, arm/hand size, height, hyper-flexibility, personality, coordination)
5. **Instrument sizing for Strings** will be done in small groups, completed by the Instrumental Music Teacher and will take place during class time.
6. **Letter of Acceptance** Results are collated based on the Expression of Interest form, Selmer Survey, classroom music teacher's results, classroom teacher feedback and instrument testing.
7. **Waiting List** for those students not being offered an instrument will be placed on a waiting list and will be informed as soon as a place becomes available.
8. **Sign Up:** Enrolment, Loan Agreement and SRS forms submitted.



Contribution Fee/SRS

All students in the Instrumental Program will be required to contribute towards the running of the program. This contribution assists with the maintenance of school instruments, the purchase of ensemble music/new equipment and the general enhancement of the program.

- Contribution with school instrument: \$165
- Contribution with own instrument: \$60

School instruments are provided to students for the **first twelve months**, after this time students continuing in the program are expected to provide their own instrument. See below for school instrument period of loan:

Instrument Hire

Instruments for Loan	Period of Loan
Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion Pack, Violin, Viola	One school year
Cello	Two school years
Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba & Double Bass	As long as the child remains in the program

Loan Agreement Information

Students wishing to hire an instrument will be required to complete the **INSTRUMENT LOAN AGREEMENT FORM (EQ11)**. Musical Instruments are hired to students for one year. This fee goes towards routine maintenance and repair and replacement costs and is paid to the office.

Students are expected to bring their instrument to school on lesson and ensemble rehearsal days only. Parents and students renting school-owned instruments should ensure their child's instrument is kept in its case inside the house when not in use. The teacher will check the school-owned instruments at the end of the year and either send them for repair, store them or allow them to be loaned for the holiday period. Instruments are not to be lent to anyone or stored outside in any weather.

Instrument Maintenance

Students should ensure that they care for the instrument they hire. A regular care and maintenance program should be undertaken. If students have not been shown how to service their instrument, they should ask their teacher's advice. Damage resulting from carelessness and lack of maintenance is the student's responsibility. Repairs on departmental instruments through normal wear and tear can be facilitated through the school. Please do not attempt to repair a school instrument yourself. A qualified instrument technician must complete repairs to instruments. The instrumental teacher will inspect any wear or damage and advise an appropriate course of action. Replacement of consumable components of the instrument such as reeds, valve oil, grease, rosin etc. are the responsibility of parents.

The school instruments are provided to students in 'good working order' and at the end of the year the instruments must be returned in the same condition. School instruments that are not being satisfactorily maintained or safely stored will be reallocated to other instrumental music students.

If you decide to purchase an instrument for your child: *"When purchasing instruments, quality should be a more important consideration than cost. Inferior quality instruments will generally need repairs after a short space of time and in many cases, cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost at all".*



Tuition

Instrumental music tuition commences:

- (a) in Grade 3 for Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) and in Grade 4 for Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.
- (b) Continuing yearly enrolment to be arranged each November.
- (c) Lessons are given in groups of no fewer than 3 students and no more than 10 students and are grouped according to instrument and student ability.
- (d) Lessons are 30 minutes in duration and occur during the school day rotating each term.
- (e) Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend lessons and should contact the Instrumental Teacher/School re lesson scheduling.
- (f) Progress reports are issued to parents/caregivers at the end of each semester.
- (g) The Principal, in conjunction with the Instrumental Teacher, may exclude students from tuition if they do not make steady progress either through lack of practice, attendance or aptitude or they do not attend ensemble practices and functions.
- (h) Students are expected to be punctual at all times to both lessons and ensemble rehearsals. Regular weekly practice is also required from each student.

Instrumental Music Timetable

Students are given a timetable and they are able to check their lesson times which is displayed outside the Instrumental Music Room. The Instrumental teachers also provide the classroom teachers with a copy of timetables.

String Ensemble/Concert Band

It is an Education Queensland policy that any student having lessons in a State School must join the school-based ensemble when the Teacher deems the child has achieved a particular standard. It is expected that all ensemble members will perform the pieces selected by the teacher for school parades and events and from time to time perform in public. Examples of venues and events include local competitions, school and local community events.

Student Commitment and Home Practice

Students must attend all lessons and rehearsals for a minimum period of one year. Practice must include work set by individual teachers and orchestral/band parts set by Teachers. Ensembles and bands depend heavily on the participation of EVERY member at ALL performances and rehearsals.

It is recommended that practice becomes part of the students' daily routine (e.g. same time every day) for 5 – 10 minutes to revise and repeat the learning concepts. More advanced students should practice longer per day. This practice can then be rewarded at home and school.

Parent Commitment

It is important for parents to show interest in their child's musical endeavours. Here are a few hints:

- ♪ Help your child schedule practice time every day.
- ♪ Listen to your child practice, create an informal weekly concert.
- ♪ Be positive and encourage them to be persistent with practice.
- ♪ Support them in attending ALL lessons, rehearsals and performances.
- ♪ Ensure they have the correct supplies needed to maintain their instrument correctly.



Communication and Teacher absence

The Instrumental music teacher may be away from time to time. If it is a planned event such as a regional or another school event, parents will be notified by email in advance. If it is due to illness or an unplanned event, parents will be notified by email before school, but if this is not possible then students will be supervised by another teacher or asked to go to the School Office.

The best way to communicate with the Instrumental music teacher is via email. If your email address changes, please notify the IM teacher immediately so that their database can be updated and you can continue to receive relevant information.

Report Cards

The Instrumental Music Curriculum enables teachers to plan a course of study through which students become musicians, through the development of **musical literacy, technique and performance**. The course seeks to extend a student's musical experience through participation in large performance ensembles as well as small group lessons. Formal reporting is undertaken each semester and will give you an indication of how well your child is progressing.

Termination

Please note that commitment to the program is for one school year, then on a year-by-year basis. It is expected that the student will continue through to Year 6. Perseverance is one of the benefits of learning an instrument and we actively encourage this. However, when signs appear that a student is not suited to an instrument, or is not maintaining progress with the rest of the group, there are two methods:

- (a) If at the end of one year you or your child feels the need to withdraw from the program, a decision should be made in consultation with the Instrumental Music Teacher. A note will then be required for this to take effect.
- (b) The Principal, in conjunction with the Instrumental Music Teacher may exclude children from tuition if they do not make steady progress either through lack of practice, attendance, or aptitude, or they do not attend the lessons and ensemble rehearsals regularly. This decision would be made in collaboration with parents.

No refund will be provided if your child withdraws from the program during the year (unless there are extenuating financial circumstances).

Music Performance Uniform

Students in the Instrumental Music Program are required to wear their School Uniform during performances. There will be an optional new Performing Arts shirt available for approximately \$40 from the Uniform Shop.

Method Text Books, Music Folder and Sheet Music

Each student will be given a Music Folder in order to keep their ensemble music in good order and their own tutor book. Instrumental music is expensive and if individual parts are lost, damaged or stolen replacement costs mount up quickly. **Each student must bring their Music folder, pencil, and method tutor book to each lesson in a Bag (similar to a Library Bag) to carry/keep together books and accessories.**



Requirements for Woodwind Instruments

Flute

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Flute)
- Cleaning rod
- Cleaning and Polishing Cloths
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Clarinet or Bass Clarinet)
- Cleaning Swab
- Cork grease (preferably in “chap stick” form)
- 4 x size 2 Rico Royal or Vandoren reeds for Bb Clarinet
- Reed guard (to hold 4 reeds)
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Alto Saxophone

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Alto Saxophone)
- Cleaning Swab (to clean neck piece)
- Cork grease (preferably in “chap stick” form)
- 4 x size 2 Rico Royal or Vandoren reeds for Alto
- Reed guard (to hold 4 reeds)
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Tenor Saxophone

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Tenor Saxophone)
- Cleaning Swab (to clean neck piece)
- Cork grease (preferably in “chap stick” form)
- 4 x size 2 Rico Royal or Vandoren reeds for Alto
- Reed guard (to hold 4 reeds)
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories



Requirements for Brass Instruments

Trumpet

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Trumpet)
- Two soft cotton cloths
- Valve oil (All Cass)
- Slide Grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Trombone

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Trombone)
- Two soft cotton cloths
- Slide Oil/Grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

French horn

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for French Horn)
- Two soft cotton cloths
- Valve oil
- Slide Grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Baritone/Euphonium

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Euphonium)
- Two soft cotton cloths
- Valve oil (All Cass)
- Slide Grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Eb Tuba

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (for Eb Tuba)
- Two soft cotton cloths
- Valve oil (All Cass)
- Slide Grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Music stand (for home practice)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories



Requirements for Percussion Instruments

Percussion

- Tutor Book – “Essential Elements Book 1” (**Combined book for Drums/Percussion**)
- Drumsticks – size 5A
- Pair hard rubber glockenspiel mallets (small heads)
- Stick bag
- Music stand (for home use)
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Requirements for String Instruments

- Display folder (for music sheets)
- Soft cotton cloths (for dusting the instrument)
- Rosin (for the bow)
- Music stand (for home practice) not needed for school use
- Bag (similar to Library Bags) to carry/keep together books and accessories

Local Music Shops:

Infinite Music
186 Currie St,
Nambour Qld
Phone 5441 5454

Mooloolaba Music Centre
Minyama Place
2 Nicklin Way & Kensington Drive
Minyama, Qld
Phone 5444 8889

The School Locker
Maroochydore Homemaker Centre
11/55 Maroochy Blvd,
Maroochydore, Qld
Phone 5452 1431

Simply for Strings
78 Enoggera Terrace
Red Hill Qld 4059
Phone 1300 739 293

