



MUSIC PROGRAM

NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL

Program Handbook
2019

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**Newport Public School has a very active Music Program
that includes 4 Bands and 3 String Ensembles
tiered by ability through years 1 to 6.**

Together they provide all students with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, be a member of a larger musical group, and access opportunities to perform at esteemed venues and at key local events in the wider community calendar.

Why join the Music Program?

Being a member of a band or orchestra is a truly rewarding and unique experience where students learn the benefits of responsible creative risk-taking in a safe and supportive arena. It is an opportunity for a diverse group of students to learn teamwork, self-discipline, confidence, and consideration for others in an empowered and creative environment.

Through performances both in and outside of school hours, our musicians learn to manage their performance persona and impact positively on the broader community whilst earning a great personal sense of achievement. For many, becoming a part of the band or orchestra will instill a life-long love of music that may create further opportunities into high school and beyond. We are proud that our Music Program at Newport is such an important and positive part of school life.

Newport Public School Band Program

At Newport we have four bands - Training Band, Intermediate Band, Performance Band, and Stage Band. Each band has unique developmental performance opportunities throughout the year, culminating in the annual Newport Music Program Twilight Concert.

Newport Public School String Program

At Newport we have a String Orchestra and two preparatory string ensembles (Violin 1, open to students in years 1-2, and Violin 2, open to students in year 2-3). All preparatory students are expected to progress into the String Orchestra or Training Band in year 3.

Who can join the Band?

Band membership is open to all students in Years 3-6.

Training Band accepts all students in years 3-6 with no prior musical experience or those learning a second (new) instrument.

Intermediate band accepts all students that have progressed through one year of Training Band, or new students that have completed external tutoring programs, that allow them to play at a year 3 level.

Further progression into the other bands is at the discretion of the Band Director after an informal assessment in early November/December each year.

It is not expected that all students become proficient players after Training Band - only that they remain committed to doing their best.

*Whatever your music ability, from absolute beginner
to gifted musician, our Music Program has
a place for you.*

Be part of something amazing!

Who can join the String Orchestra?

String Orchestra accepts all students in years 3 that have progressed through the Introductory Strings Programs, or older students that have completed external tutoring programs, that allow them to play at a year 3 level.

Who can join the Introductory Strings Program?

The Introductory Strings Program includes Violin 1 and Violin 2.

Violin 1 is open to all students in years 1-2 with no prior experience necessary. Violin 2 is open to all students in years 2-3 that have progressed through the violin 1 program, or that show a strong commitment to learning the violin at an accelerated rate.

*Learning a new instrument is an exciting time!
Allowing your child a term of tutorials before joining
the band or orchestra will ensure they get the best
possible experience out of their new ensemble.*

What instruments do we offer in **Band**?

Woodwind	Brass	Rhythm
<i>Flute</i>	<i>Trumpet</i>	<i>Bass Guitar - Limited places</i>
<i>Clarinet + Bass Clarinet</i>	<i>Trombone</i>	<i>Percussion</i>
<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Euphonium</i>	
<i>Tenor Saxophone</i>	<i>French Horn</i>	

What instruments do we offer in **Orchestra**?

Violin –

There are three violin sections in orchestra that employ progressively challenging sections based on age and experience.

Viola –

Our viola section always welcomes new players.

Cello –

Double Bass –

Our Cello and Double Bass players will need at least one term of lessons on their new instrument before starting in orchestra, if transitioning from the violin. Students are advised to start external tutoring sessions in term 4 and continue over the Christmas break in order to be ready to start in term 1.

What instrument will my child play?

This year at Newport we are trialling a Timbre test, which can determine the instrument to which each individual student may show a natural aural affinity. Allocation of instruments is based on a blow test, students preference, instrument ownership and the balance of instruments across the band. Once you register your interest in an instrument, we will notify you of instrument allocation before the end of term.

Do you need your own instrument?

The band program welcomes students who have their own instrument although it is not essential for members in their first year. All students will be able to hire their instruments from the school but it is recommended that instruments be purchased as they enter their second year of playing. The band room supplies its own percussion and drum kit, and families whose children are allocated to this section of the band will need to pay a nominal fee for their use AND purchase their own mallet bag (ordered from Optimum Percussion). They will also need to supply something suitable at home to practice on.

What other bits do I need to purchase?

It is the families' responsibility to look after their hire instrument and to purchase other personal items required to play, such as reeds, cork grease, valve oil etc. You can purchase these at Mona Vale Music. You will also need a music stand to support practice at home.

Instrument Lessons - Mandatory

Private lessons are mandatory and must be organised by the parents outside of school hours and paid for independently of the school Music Program. The band director has carefully compiled a list of well-respected tutors in the area, many of whom teach other Newport students. We highly recommend tutelage from one of these teachers and encourage you to contact us should you not find someone suitable. Many tutors often settle their timetables before Term 1 starts so it is a good idea to make contact early.

Band Committee

The Band Committee is a sub-committee of the Newport Public School P&C Association. It employs the Band Director, Ben Swatton and holds Melanie Cogan as the 2018 Music Program President.

The Committee meets twice a term to ensure the smooth running of the Music Program and offer a connection point for all our musical families.

Costs

**Fees cover two, one-hour rehearsals per week for 40 weeks.
Once broken down this equates to approximately \$2.30 per half-hour.**

Training Band \$395 (to include a textbook and folder)
 \$420 (to include a textbook, folder and shirt)
Intermediate Band \$375
Performance Band \$375
Stage Band \$180
String Orchestra \$365
Fees should be paid in full at the beginning of the year.

Introductory Violin Program
Violin 1 or 2 \$610 (annually)
 or \$305 (bi-annually)

*Discounts apply to families of more than two children, or students participating in more than two ensembles.

Instrument Hire varies by instrument, but is generally around \$200 per year.

Payment Policy

Ensemble fees and hire fees are made in an upfront payment at the start of the year to reflect your commitment to your ensemble. Payment is expected within 4 weeks from the commencement of rehearsals. Violin 1 and 2 students may choose to pay half up front and half in Semester 2. It is important to remember that commitment is expected for the entire year regardless of payment options. Pulling your child out without paying Semester 2 fees impacts upon our overall ability to fund the Violin program.

Hire fees are paid on receipt of your instrument.

2018 Ensemble timetable

(may change very slightly in 2019)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.10-9.10am Creative space	Stage Band	Training Band	Performance Band	Intermediate Band	
8.10-9.10am Hall		String Orchestra		String Orchestra	
3.25-4.30pm Creative space	Performance Band	Intermediate Band		Training Band	
8.10-9.15am Old Music Room		Violin 1		Violin 1	
8.10-9.15am New Music Room		Violin 2		Violin 2	

Our musicians rehearse twice a week for up to one hour before or after school

Uniforms

Performance uniforms must be worn by all students in the Strings Orchestra, Performance, Stage and Intermediate, and Training Bands during performances. This includes black shoes with black pants or skirt (supplied by the parents), and a black Music Ensembles polo shirt (supplied upon registration from 2019).

All other groups will wear school uniform.

Instruments available for Hire

There are a number of school-owned instruments available for hire. Priority for the allocation of these instruments is given to the new Training Band.

Training Band students on the smaller wind/brass instruments (i.e. flutes, trumpets, clarinets, bass guitar) should consider purchase of their own instrument at the completion of their first year. Instruments are rented for a 1-year period only; however, allowances are made for children who play the larger more expensive instruments. These children can normally expect to retain their instrument during their time at primary school (i.e. French horn, bass clarinet, tenor & baritone saxophone, trombone, baritone, tuba etc.).

All violin students in the String Orchestra are expected to provide their own instrument. Exceptions are given to children who play cellos and double bass. Normally they can expect to retain these instruments during their time at primary school.

There are a limited number of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ size violins for hire for the Violin 1 and 2 students. Occasionally we also have some second hand violins which can be purchased. Information about the hire or purchase of Violins for the V1 and V2 program will be circulated prior to lessons commencing.

Once you are in receipt of the school-hired instrument, we expect a high level of care to be given to that instrument and all parts/accessories that accompany that instrument. All accidental and/or deliberate damage of instruments and/or parts/accessories, or loss of instruments and/or parts/accessories will be at the cost of the parents/students. The Music Committee is only responsible for normal wear & tear and servicing of instruments. The Instrument Inventory and Hire Manager must be contacted immediately with all situations affecting school-hired instruments.

Insurance of Instruments

Hired instruments are the responsibility of the hirer and must be included in the hirer's home insurance policy as an additional item that is taken away from home. This cover must include accidental damage cover. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage either in transit or on school premises.

Private Tuition

It is compulsory for students in the Training, Intermediate, Performance Bands and the String Orchestra to attend private tuition, minimum 30-minutes, once per week.

Violin 1 and 2 students do NOT need to attend private lessons outside of school.

Professional tutors can ensure that children learn to play correctly, ensuring correct posture and embouchure. A tutor list has been compiled to assist you in selecting a tutor.

In all cases, it must be understood that this list is a guide only and it is the parents' responsibility to satisfy yourselves that your child's tutor is appropriate. If you have concerns with any aspect of the tutoring, discuss these with the tutor and if they cannot be resolved consider changing. Correctly matching your child with a tutor will greatly assist with your child's attitude to home practise and general enthusiasm for music.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." — Plato

Guidelines to choosing a Private Tutor

There are a number of key components of musical tuition that should be covered by all tutors and the following information is provided as a guide in choosing a tutor to match your child.

Two important aspects to keep in mind are:

- 1. Your child should have some fun at tutorials***
- 2. Your child should be making progress on their instrument***

Sometimes these two objectives may conflict but it is important to realise that in music the more progress a child makes on their instrument the more likely it is the child will enjoy the activity. Also, in order for your child to have the opportunity to perform in Newport's most senior ensembles it is essential that a commitment be made to tutoring and home practice during these formative years of their musical development.

Practice

Practice must be daily, regular and consistent to take full benefit of tuition and to develop correct skills. Please speak with your child's tutor for an effective practice routine. However, 10 minutes per day three or four times a week would be a minimum target. Using a metronome during practise will greatly enhance your child's playing ability.

The following key components to a music lesson are as follows:

1. Basic music theory – reading music

Theory can be covered by completing theory papers, sitting formal exams or by working through theory issues as they arise in practical playing. Generally a sound knowledge of theory enhances their playing ability, provided that it does not kill off the enthusiasm for the instrument.

2. Scales

As a general rule, practising scales is an important part of musical learning. This demonstrates the theory of musical scale construction in addition to providing dexterity development. It can be used as a method of warming up for practise and is normally always used as a warm up exercise at ensemble rehearsals.

3. Rhythm

Rhythm is the ability to correctly time the playing of a musical piece and is essential in an ensemble environment. Tutors use non-musical counting exercises (clapping the rhythm), metronomes (mechanical or digital beat counters) and musical pieces that emphasise aspects of rhythm.

4. Technical work

Technical work is designed to develop coordination and dexterity. Typically the pieces are repetitive. As the musical pieces become more difficult this work becomes more important. For example, there is little point in having great theory and rhythm but being unable to move your fingers fast enough.

5. Dynamics

Dynamics refer to the emphasis on the notes being played to ensure the correct sound is being produced i.e., the tone of the music. Tutors typically develop your child's tone as they work through a piece of music.

6. Music set by Conductors during rehearsals

Conductors of each ensemble will set music for their group each week. It is a requirement that your child's tutor teach your child how to play the set piece(s) correctly, and to discuss all areas of musicality as per sections 1 to 5 above.

7. Practice

Tutors should provide a practice routine, often written in a music book in case your child forgets what they were supposed to do. This is useful to parents who, ideally, will be supervising your child's practise. Home practise is essential and should be firmly encouraged. Practise must be daily, regular and consistent to take full benefit of tuition and to develop correct skills. Please speak with your child's tutor for an effective practise routine. However, 20 minutes per day for 5 days out of 7 would be a target. Using a metronome during practise will greatly enhance your child's playing ability.

8. Instrument maintenance

Looking after your instrument is vital to ensure it is ready to be played on all occasions of practise, tutoring, rehearsals and performances. Tutors can encourage responsible instrument maintenance in the children by establishing common sense routines for cleaning and checking an instrument.

Finally, ensure you have good communications with your child's tutor. They are normally very enthusiastic about their work and welcome feedback. Sit in on the lesson if you can, who knows it may be the incentive you need to take up an instrument yourself and enjoy this wonderful journey of music with your child.

Music Camp

Music Camp will be held early term 2, over a weekend in May at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation in Narrabeen. The camp will involve 2 full days with one overnight stay. Training, Intermediate and Performance Bands, and the String Orchestra will be expected to attend. The Violin 2 students attend for an afternoon parent performance only, and Violin 1 students are not involved in music camp.

Music Camp should be considered as an essential part of the Music Program for the year. Students have two days of intensive music workshops from tutors especially selected for this occasion, culminating in a combined performance for parents and friends on the Sunday. Activities such as archery, rock climbing, abseiling, ball sports, a games night and movie are also included. Every effort should be made to ensure all eligible students attend. This weekend is viewed by the Conductors and Music Committee as a necessary part of your child's musical development.

Registration

Registration can be completed online at:

<https://portal.msmusic.com.au/newportpsmusic>

Follow the link above to complete your child and family details, and register for the Music Program. Once registration is complete, you will be sent an invoice for the annual fee, which can be paid through the office or online via Flexischools. If you require the hire of an instrument, you will be contacted to arrange collection of your instrument, after which a separate invoice will be issued.

Further Questions?

Please email the Music Committee at

NewportPSMusicCommittee@gmail.com

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Benefits of Playing an Instrument in Primary School

Brain Growth

Studies in neuroscience show that music enhances brain function in children, and that playing an instrument actively improves the brain's structure by forming new neural connections and pathways.

Language Skills

Young children who participate in music classes show improved speech development and learn to read more easily. Listening to music helps develop the left side of the brain (related to language, reasoning and logic), while playing music actively builds connections between the left and right (innovation, intuition and creativity) hemispheres.

Maths Skills

Music helps to develop maths skills. By listening to musical beats, your child can learn basic fractions, pattern recognition and problem solving. Children who study music also have improved spatial intelligence and ability to form mental pictures of objects - skills that are important for more advanced mathematics.

Memory, Attention and Concentration

Children who are musically trained have better working memory skills, helping them to mentally multi-task, which is important for mental arithmetic and reading comprehension. Learning music also requires significant levels of concentration, training children to focus for sustained periods.

Increased Coordination

Just like playing sports, playing music helps children develop their motor skills. Making music involves more than the voice or fingers; you also use ears and eyes as well as large and small muscles, all at the same time. This helps the body and the mind work together.

Achievement and Discipline

Learning music teaches children to work towards short term goals, develop routine and practice self-discipline. Setting aside regular time for practice develops commitment and patience. Mastering a new piece of music leads to a sense of pride and achievement, and helps children to learn the value of self-discipline.

Social Skills

Playing music in a school ensemble improves children's social and emotional skills. They learn to work together as a team and develop their sense of empathy. Research shows that when children play music together, they are better able to tune into other people's emotions.

The Joy of Music

Music gives children a way to express themselves, unleash their creativity, be inspired, relax, and relieve stress and tension. Just think about listening to a beautiful piece of classical music, singing along to a favourite song with friends, or dancing to a great song on the radio – music can make your heart sing!

Music for Life

Students from our first year violin ensemble that began in 1999, now play in the Northern Beaches Orchestra – 19 years on! Others have gone on to join other prestigious ensembles in Sydney and beyond, and all take with them the lifelong joy of music, a lasting sense of belonging, and all the benefits of an exponentially developed brain!