

Chapel Hill State School

Instrumental Programme

2025 for 2026

Education Queensland Instrumental Music Programme

Chapel Hill State School has one of the most successful
Instrumental Music programmes in the state.

*In 2024, both Senior Band and Senior Strings ensembles
made it to the Regional Finals of Fanfare, and both were
awarded “Most Outstanding Primary Performance” for
the Metro North Region.*

This is due to our very capable students + great teachers
+ supportive parents.

The Purpose Of The Instrumental Music Programme

The overarching purpose of the Instrumental Music Program is to provide children with the opportunity to:

- ▶ Experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band/orchestral instrument
- ▶ Participate in performance ensembles such as concert bands and orchestras.

Why learn a musical instrument?

- ▶ Studying music encourages self-discipline and diligence that can lead to effective study habits.
- ▶ Creating and performing music promotes self-expression and confidence.
- ▶ Music helps people, especially children, to connect with themselves, and others, and become part of a team.
- ▶ Playing music has been proven to stimulate the brain and help with many other subjects including Mathematics.

The Selection Process

1. Children learn about the instruments in Classroom Music lessons
2. The application process is discussed with children in Music
3. Strings or Band Program – you may choose one or the other - you cannot swap or do both
4. Expressions of Interest letters sent home
5. Assessment process (Musicianship)
 - Listening tests
 - Report card results
6. Spreadsheet of data compiled in rank order (using results)
7. Discussion with classroom teacher (Commitment, Reliability, Responsibility, Learning support, Concerns etc)

The Selection Process cont...

8. Shortlist created from this data – which is then given to the relevant Instrumental teacher (Mrs O'Donnell or Miss Prescott)
9. Shortlisted students are then assessed by the relevant Instrumental Music teacher in terms of their physical attributes, personality traits and instrument suitability
10. Students are selected to play specific instruments based upon their suitability, ensemble balance needs, and the student's own personal preference
11. Parents of successful applicants are sent a letter and acceptance form offering their child a position in the programme and stating which instrument we believe is most suitable for their child
12. Parents are also given a contract to sign, along with their child, which outlines the commitment expected through to the end of Year 6 (or when the student leaves the school)
13. Parents are asked to accept or decline the offer, by returning the required paperwork to the Office

Unsuccessful applicants

Each year more children apply for positions than we have available.

STRINGS

If your child applies for Strings and is unsuccessful, they can apply for Band (if they wish) the following year.

You may also request that they be added to a Strings waiting list.

BAND

If your child applies for Band and is unsuccessful, you are able to request that they be added to a waiting list.

** Please note that although we offer a waiting list system, it is quite rare for children to drop out of either programme.*

Instruments Taught at Chapel Hill

The Band Instruments - Miss Prescott

Flute	Trumpet	Percussion
Clarinet	Trombone	
Saxophone	Euphonium	
	Tuba	
	French Horn	

Children in Year 3 can apply for one of the above instruments, and if successful will commence lessons at the beginning of Year 4.

Instruments Taught at Chapel Hill

The String Instruments - Mrs O'Donnell

Violin

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Children in Year 2 can apply for one of the above instruments, and if successful will commence lessons at the beginning of Year 3.

Lessons

- ▶ Students receive one 30 minute group lesson per week in class time on a specific day.
- ▶ Groups usually are between 3 to 8 students.

Ensembles - Band

Both groups perform at the school's Music Nights in Semester 1 and 2.

Year level of student	Ensemble	Rehearsals
Year 4	Junior Band	Lunchtimes from Term 2
Year 5 and 6	Senior Band	Tuesday mornings at 7:30am

Ensembles - Strings

All groups perform at the school's Music Nights in Semester 1 and 2.

Year level of student	Ensemble	Rehearsals
Year 3	Junior Strings	N/A
Year 4	Intermediate Strings	N/A
Year 5 and 6	Senior Strings	Friday mornings at 7:20am

Expectations – Practise Diary

- ▶ Students are expected to practise for at least 15-20 minutes, 5 days a week.
- ▶ Parents must monitor their child's practise and sign the Practise Diary issued.
- ▶ Parents should ensure that their child has a suitable environment for practise and a proper music stand.

Expectations - Commitment

- ▶ Children enrolling in the programme are expected to stay the course with their instrument for at least the first year, and ideally until they leave the school.
- ▶ Children in the programme are expected to attend all lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances.

Problems !

Communication is very important!

We cannot fix a problem
if we do not know there is a problem!

If your child is experiencing some difficulties, or if you as a parent have some concerns about some aspect of your child's learning, let the teacher know as soon as possible.

HIRE or BUY ??

BAND PROGRAM

Instruments available for hire:

- Saxophone (1st year),
- Trombone,
- Tuba,
- Euphonium, and
- French Horn

Instruments students must purchase (hiring not available):

- Flute,
- Clarinet,
- Trumpet, and
- Percussion

COSTS INVOLVED – Band

Instrumental Music SRS – Hired instruments

- **Alto Sax - \$310/year**
- **French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba - \$310/year**
- may be paid yearly or by instalments

Instrumental Music SRS - Non-hired instruments

- **Flute, Clarinet and Trumpet - \$100/year**
- **Percussion - \$220/year**
- may be paid yearly or by instalments

The cost includes the cost of hiring and purchase of sheet music

HIRE or BUY ??

STRINGS PROGRAM

Instruments available for hire from the school:

- Cello,
- Double Bass

Instruments students must purchase (hiring not available):

- Violin,
- Viola

COSTS INVOLVED – Strings

Instrumental Music SRS – Hired instruments

- **Cello and Double Bass - \$250/year**
- may be paid yearly or by instalments

Instrumental Music SRS - Non-hired instruments

- **Violin and Viola - \$100/year**
- may be paid yearly or by instalments

The cost includes the cost of hiring and purchase of sheet music

Student Requirements

A list of items required will be sent home with the letter of offer (Term 4, 2025).

These items will need to be organised prior to the commencement of lessons (Term 1, Week 2, 2026).

Buying an Instrument

If you are buying an instrument, either new or second hand, seek professional advice from the instrumental teacher, or one of the reputable music stores.

Usually towards the end of the year there are advertisements in the school newsletter regarding instruments for sale.

Talk to the person selling the instrument and ask them if it's ok to bring it in to have Miss Prescott or Mrs O'Donnell look over it before purchase.

Beware of cheap instruments from places like supermarkets eg Aldi – you get what you pay for! Some instrument repair technicians will often refuse to repair non-reputable brands .

Questions...

If you have any questions, you may contact the relevant person below:

Band-specific questions

Miss Angela Prescott (Band Instructor) apres107@eq.edu.au

Mrs Belinda Tang (Instrumental assistant) btang23@eq.edu.au

Strings-specific questions

Mrs Alice O'Donnell (Strings Instructor) aodon39@eq.edu.au

Mrs Belinda Tang (Instrumental assistant) btang23@eq.edu.au

Application form and general questions

Mrs Bridget Cook (Music Coordinator) bcook82@eq.edu.au