



Instrumental Music School Services Parent Information Evenings

Beginner Instrumental Music Students 2025

Presentation script

Use for language translation and accessibility.

Page 1: Welcome to the Parent Information Evening meeting

Page 2: Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to show our respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, of Elders past and present, on which this event takes place. We also acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all children and people in this country we all live in and share together – Australia.

Page 3: Purpose of this meeting

In this presentation I will briefly outline how the instrumental music program works, help you to make the right choice for your child and provide information on how to support your child with their music. As we are a diverse community, I will be reading from a script so as to ensure everyone receives the same information in an equitable way this evening.

Page 4: Music in the School Curriculum

Music is a discipline within the Arts Learning Area in the WA Curriculum and is expected to be taught in all public primary schools. Music is available in a large number of secondary schools throughout W.A.

Page 5: Participation in Music

Participation in music helps children to develop a whole range of skills, not only musical skills, but also general cognitive, social and emotional skills. Children have an opportunity to be involved in performance within their community, to develop enhanced listening skills and develop self-esteem and confidence.

Page 6: About Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS)

Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) is a service provider for Department of Education public schools. We have a 3-year school plan to inform the direction in which we deliver this service.

IMSS Motto: *Engage : Inspire : Create*

Vision statement: We provide a rich environment where students have opportunities and pathways for inspiration, success in music and personal excellence.

Purpose statement: To provide quality teaching, diverse and stimulating performance and enrichment opportunities, supporting every instrumental music student to realise their full potential.

Page 7: About Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) [1/3]

The instrumental music program that we offer is an extension of the classroom music program and is designed for **students who demonstrate special aptitude** through a thorough testing and **selection process**. This includes an aural test, class teacher references and **physical suitability**.

The instrumental music program does require **commitment over an extended period of time** – students are expected to stay with their chosen instrument at least until Year 10 if the program is available at the school they will be attending. We are not always able to provide instrumental teaching on all instruments in every high school.

The instrumental teacher may be able to provide you with information on the continuing program in the local area high schools, but it is best to contact the school directly. Please note that some high schools may require students to audition for their programs.

Page 8: About Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) [2/3]

In our system we have specialist schools and **Gifted & Talented selective schools**. The selective schools for GATE Music are **Churchlands SHS and John Curtin College of the Arts**. Students must apply to attend these schools. A testing and selection process for interested Year 6 students begins in the April school vacation. This process involves an audition.

The music programs at these schools are intensive and students are provided with individual instrumental lessons.

For more information on GATE programs, please see the following website - <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented>

There are several **specialist music schools** across the metropolitan area and in some regional schools. These schools have extensive music programs and students may be able to “cross boundaries” to attend a school that is not in their local area for music. These schools usually have an **audition program** for student entry.

For more information on approved specialist programs, please see the following website - <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/approved-specialist-programs>

Page 9: About Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) [3/3]

The Instrumental Music School Services provide instruction to approximately 400 primary and 85 secondary schools across the state to some 20,000 students from Year 3 - 12. Many IMSS students have gone on to careers as professional musicians and many students continue to enjoy their musical experiences through a range of music activities.

Page 10: How does the program work? [1/3]

Our program is based on a **cluster model** where we ensure that a balance of instruments is made available to primary schools so that the area high school has the instruments required to form a balanced band/orchestra/guitar ensemble etc.

Our program relies heavily on the support of the class music program at each school and the three-way connection between the school, student and parents provides the best chance of success.

Page 11: How does the program work? [2/3]

The places in the instrumental program are limited and we do not provide all instruments in every school. Our program is based on small group instruction engaging students with the benefits of learning with others.

Where we have a **string program this starts in Year 3** with violin and/or viola; Year 4 cello; Year 5 double bass. **Year 5 is also the entry year for most of our other instruments** – clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, classical guitar and percussion.

In Year 7 (high school) we have entry for saxophone, oboe, bassoon, tuba, electric guitar, bass guitar and voice. In some schools we offer additional entry classes at Year 7 to assist in supporting balanced ensemble programs. **We do not have an entry level beyond Year 7.**

Page 12: How does the program work? [3/3]

Playing a musical instrument requires serious time commitment and students must consider all of the other things that they do out of school hours to ensure they have enough time to practise their instrument.

Students should not have another teacher on the same instrument – this can cause conflict for the student. Varying advice can be very confusing for a student.

Page 13: Ensemble opportunities

There are a variety of **school ensembles** that we support in schools. From large bands and orchestras through to smaller ensembles. Teachers may incorporate duets, trios, etc, in their group lessons to engage students with ensemble experiences.

Page 14: Performance opportunities

We support some significant performance opportunities including the annual OPUS showcase concert at the Perth Concert Hall. We also work alongside other organisations to support Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz, Contemporary, Guitar and Vocal festivals, as well as various workshops held throughout the year.

Page 15: What does it cost? [1/4]

All tuition funding is provided by the DoE – this is very significant as the cost of private tuition for music lessons would be around \$1600 per year. We provide a student journal free of charge.

Guitars, violins, violas and basic percussion must be provided by the students.

We have a loan system for other instruments and individual schools hire these instruments from the IMSS and then loan them out to students.

Page 16: What does it cost? [2/4]

We charge schools a fee for these instruments which they usually pass on directly to the parents, however, some schools negotiate this fee with individual parents.

We recommend that you add the instrument to your personal household insurance as the State Governments' RiskCover Insurer may not cover instruments if they have been left unattended in a car and or at a house that is not secure.

All repairs to hire instruments are done through the Instrumental Music School Services at no cost.

Your instrumental teacher will advise you of any other accessories that need to be purchased for the specific instrument. A music stand is also a very necessary item - this is extremely important to encourage good posture and proper technique.

Page 17: What does it cost? [3/4]

Purchasing of instruments – We have pamphlets available on our website for general information, however, we always recommend that you consult the instrumental music teacher for their recommendations and advice prior to purchase.

Page 18: What does it cost? [4/4]

Time and effort are the biggest cost to students – regular practice, lessons, ensembles and performances must take priority. **Parent support for students is absolutely essential** for encouragement, sustaining communication with the teacher, transporting students to concerts, and attending performances.

Lessons are scheduled by the IMSS teacher and are usually at a fixed time in primary school, and based on a rotating timetable in secondary school.

Page 19: Factors that influence success [1/3]

The most important factor is resilience - to persevere when the going gets tough. There will be times when the motivation drops away and the initial excitement wears off – this is when students need support and encouragement from their families to stick at it – they do overcome the obstacles, but it takes time.

Page 20: Factors that influence success [2/3]

Playing a musical instrument is a lifelong journey. Please remember to use the music journal to communicate with the teacher on the issues affecting your child's progress.

Page 21: Factors that influence success [3/3]

Here are some examples of the journals we use for our students:

- The red & yellow cover is for our primary students

- The blue & green cover is for our secondary students

- Here is an example of the weekly journal page –
 - 'playing time' to record practise each week;
 - 'set work' section for the teacher to list learning goals for the week;
 - 'comments' section for the teacher, student and parents to communicate in.

Page 22: Connect classes – on-line

Most schools are promoting on-line communication with students and parents through the Department's online platform, *Connect*. Instrumental teachers are expected to form "Connect Classes" to provide a process for communicating with students and their parents, providing information and resources through this method.

Page 23: IMSS website

For further information on our program, including an extensive FAQ section (on the home page) please check out our website – <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/instrumental-music> .

Page 24: Thank you

Thank you for your taking the time to work through this comprehensive resource. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Music contact at your child's school. For other enquiries, please contact IMSS directly on (08) 9338 9500.