



# Stafford Heights State School

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4<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

Dear Parents/Caregivers

## RE: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC RECRUITMENT

Learning a musical instrument is one of life's great joys. It develops children's confidence, complements academic development and is just plain fun! At Stafford Heights, children from Year 4 upwards are offered the opportunity to learn woodwind, brass and percussion instruments through the school's Instrumental Music Program.

Lessons are held on the same day each week and are timetabled on a rotating or fixed basis depending on other specialist classes schedule. Stafford Heights State School has a number of school-owned loan instruments that are issued each year to beginners or parents can hire or purchase their own, if their child receives an offer of a place. After all places are filled, students will be placed on a waiting list which will be established after all applicants have been tested for aptitude and suitability.

A parent information session will be held next **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 5:00pm in the Music Room.** All interested families are welcome to attend.

All students enrolled in the Instrumental Music Program are expected to rehearse and perform in the band, after an appropriate standard has been attained. Daily practice is essential, and lessons must be attended regularly (with all equipment). Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone and Alto Saxophone are available for a one-year loan. After this time, families of continuing students will need to obtain their own instrument so that other beginning students may be given the chance to use a school instrument. Most larger instruments such as Baritone Horn, Euphonium and Tenor Saxophone may be used until the end of Year 6.

**Students and their families are expected to commit to at least one year of school tuition. Students who wish to withdraw from the Instrumental Music program should discuss this with their families and the Instrumental Teacher.**

All families with students in the Instrumental Music program contribute financially to the program. The levy is currently \$110.00 per year which all instrumental students are required to contribute to and the cost of the loan of an instrument is \$90.00 per year. The levy covers costs such as the provision of ensemble music, school equipment used by instrumental music students, band folders, etc. Some incidental costs will need to be covered by families of students in the Instrumental Music program and these costs are kept to the minimum. All students will need to purchase these essential items:

- Necessary accessories (such as reeds, strap for saxophone, cork grease etc.)
- Method Book – Essential Elements Book 1 for your child's allocated instrument
- Cleaning and maintenance equipment
- Music Stand (optional for home practice)

These items will be detailed in the acceptance package.

### Selection Process for Instrumental Music Program 2026

Students are selected according to the needs of an ensemble-based program, ensuring that instrumentation is appropriately balanced. Available positions in the IM program also depend on available time for tuition. Schools are allocated an instrumental teacher based on their school population. At Stafford Heights State School, part of the school budget is allocated to top up the allocated IM teacher budget so that our students have optimal IM opportunities. The SHSS IM teacher works across multiple schools and their time at SHSS is allocated by the Department of Education.

Students are selected for the Instrumental Music program so that they have the best opportunity to succeed with their instrument. Factors for selection include:

- Spaces available in the program – decided by the Department of Education and availability in the SHSS IM program
- instrumentation necessary for balanced ensembles – decided by IM teachers

- Likely success for the student on the instrument – decided by IM teachers
- Best match of instrument to the student – decided by IM teachers with consideration to individual physical attributes
- Musical. Physical testing of hand span, embouchure etc.
- Student's work habits, and behaviour – liaise with class teacher
- Impact on academic success – liaise with class teacher.

If students are absent when physical testing is conducted, another time will be organised where possible.

The final decision on enrolment into the Instrumental program is made by the principal.

#### *Ascertainment Process Rationale*

- 1.As many children as possible will be given the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Music Program.
- 2.All children have an equal chance of being involved allowing for prior experience or a lack of experience.
- 3.With limited school instruments and instruction time, the process to ascertain the rank order of students to be offered school instruments and/or positions will be thorough.
- 4.Children who are transferring to Stafford Heights and who are already playing an instrument will be offered a position in the program if a vacancy exists.

The IM Music teacher will do their best to allocate the student with their preferred instrument because it is important that your children enjoy their musical experience at Stafford Heights State School. Please note that lesson time for some instruments is extremely limited and that buying an instrument in advance will not guarantee a place for beginners.

If you and your child are interested in being considered for placement in the program, **please complete the Instrumental Music Program Application and either bring it to the Instrumental Music Information Session next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm or send it to the school office this date.**


In Term 4, families will be notified with an offer of a place in the instrumental music program including the instrument on offer OR a wait list notification. Not all students can be accepted due to availability in the IM program and maximum student numbers per lesson. Not all students will accept the instrument they are offered. Students who are not offered an initial place in the program will be placed on a wait list in case initial offers are not accepted.

Please contact the school if you require further information.

Kind regards



Sarah Abdy  
Principal



Rachel Andrews  
Instrumental Music Teacher

# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM APPLICATION

Please return to office by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

My child .....

in Year ..... is interested in becoming part of the 2026 Stafford Heights Instrumental Music Program.

They wish to be considered for:

**Woodwind/Brass or Percussion Program (Year 4 and upwards)**

Please indicate preferences by numbering the boxes below:

- ☐ Trombone    ☐ Trumpet    ☐ Baritone Horn / Euphonium
- ☐ Saxophone    ☐ Flute    ☐ Clarinet    ☐ Percussion (NO drum kit)
- ☐ Bass Guitar (Band only NO Rock)

Comments:

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Parent/Caregiver Signature

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Date

.....  
Parent/Caregiver Email Address