

BAND

HANDBOOK

BOURKE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL



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INTRODUCTION

Why learn an instrument?

There are many benefits a child can reap from learning a musical instrument, including **language**, **maths**, **concentration**, and **social skills**.

The following information is sourced from Learning Potential learningpotential.gov.au.



Brain growth

Studies in neuroscience show that music can enhance brain function in children. Musical activities (such as playing an instrument, singing, or just listening to music) stimulate the brain, and this brain workout leads to improved brain structure with the formation of new neural connections.

Language skills

Studies also show that young children who participate in music classes have improved speech development and learn to read more easily. Learning music helps to develop the left side of the brain (related to language and reasoning), assists with sound recognition, and teaches rhythm and rhyme. Songs can also help children remember information (just think of the Alphabet song!).

Maths skills

Music can help with the development of 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

Recent studies have shown that people who are musically trained have better working memory skills, helping them to remember things even while their minds are busy with other matters – important aspects of mental arithmetic and reading comprehension. Learning music also requires significant levels of concentration, training children to focus their attention for sustained periods.

Increased coordination

Just like playing sports, playing, and dancing to 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

Making music with other people (like in a band or choir) improves children's social and emotional skills. They learn to work together as a team and develop their sense of empathy with others. Researchers have found that when children play music together – from simple rhythms to larger group performances – they are better able to tune into other people's emotions.

The joy of music

Music can give children a way to express themselves, to unleash their creativity, to be inspired and uplifted, to relax, and to 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!

Why now?



At Bourke Street Public School, students start to learn how to read and hear music through the Recorder Program taught by Stage 1 classroom teachers. By Years 3 and 4, students are ready to transfer these skills to band instruments. At this stage, a child's embouchure and lunch capacity has developed and will continue to into their teens.

Music Australia's '[Choosing an Instrument?](#)' article offers a thorough breakdown of the recommended instruments for each age group, explaining that there are many factors for introducing instruments at different age levels. Factors include cognitive development, muscle development, dental, size and suitability for lessons and ensembles.

Band Director



Claire Johnson is the Band Director. Claire is an alto saxophonist with extensive training in musical theory and performance. She is also a classroom teacher at Bourke Street Public School and has led the K-2 choir and ukulele club at her previous school. Claire can be contacted at claire.johnson47@det.nsw.edu.au

Our Bands

All Bourke Street Public School students in Years 3-6 are welcome to join the Band Program which consists of two bands which cater for all students. Students will move up from the Training Band when they are identified as ready to join the Performance Band.



Training Band is for students who have just started learning a musical instrument or who are continuing to develop their musical ability. The Training Band is made up of students **predominantly** in Years 3 and 4.

Performance Band is for students who are increasingly confident at playing their musical instrument. The Performance Band is made up of students **predominantly** in Years 5 and 6.

Band Instruments

Instruments offered include:

Woodwinds	Brass	Strings	Percussion
Flute	Trumpet	Bass Guitar	Drums
Clarinet	Trombone		
Saxophone	French Horn		

Visit the link to find out more about [Choosing the Right Instrument](#).























Band 'Balance'

It is the responsibility of the Band Director to ensure the sound is 'balanced'. Balance refers to the strength of various sections (for example, saxophone, trumpet, and flute sections).

The Band Director will carefully consider allocation and cannot allocate every student their first preference as listed, as the whole make-up of the band must be considered. **Existing students of each band will continue learning their previously allocated instrument.**

As the current health guidelines do not allow for a proper 'blow test', **new** students joining the band this school year will be given the opportunity to trial their matched instrument for a term before swapping to a more suitable instrument if necessary.

The following numbers are a suggested guide that the Band Director will follow to balance concert band instrumentation. *Please see the Band Instruments section above to see what instruments Bourke Street Public School are offering this year.*

27+ Piece Band		38+ Piece Band	
 3 x Flutes	 3 x Trumpets	 4-5 x Flutes	 5 x Trumpets
 1 x Oboe	 2 x Horns	 1 x Oboe	 3-4 x Horns
 1 x Bassoon	 3 x Trombones	 1 x Bassoon	 3-4 x Trombones
 5-6 x Clarinets	 1 x Euphonium	 8 x Clarinets	 1-2 x Euphoniums
 1 x Bass Clarinets	 1 x Tuba	 1-2 x Bass Clarinets	 2 x Tubas
 3 x Saxophones	 3-4 x Percussion	 4 x Saxophones	 5 x Percussion

BAND PROGRAM

Band Fees & Costs

Welcome Pack

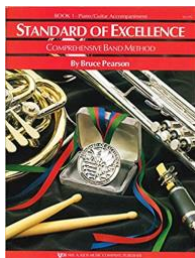
To celebrate the launch of the Band Program for 2022, Bourke Street Public School has curated a Welcome Pack at a reduced price for families and will source each item for families. Payment should be made by the end of Term 1.

Fees	Worth	BSPS Introductory Price for 2022
Band Membership	\$180 per year	Free
Music Book <i>Standard Of Excellence Book 1</i>	\$24.95	\$18.00
Band Shirt	\$24.00	\$18.00

Additional Costs

Fees	Amount
Band Camp	Approximately \$300.00
Instrument Hire	Prices vary
Instrument Purchase	Prices vary
Tuition <i>Payment through Musical Partnerships</i>	\$41+GST per half hour

Band Music Book



From 2022, all bands will utilise **The Standard of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method Book 1** which combines a strong performance-centred approach with music theory, music history, ear training, listening composition, improvisation, and interdisciplinary and multicultural studies. The result is the most complete band method available anywhere.

Band T-Shirt



Band members are required to wear full band uniform at special performances. The uniform is:

- Band T-shirt
- Long black pants (no jeans or trackpants)
- Black socks
- Black shoes

Weekly Tuition



The tutorial program is facilitated by tutors registered with [The Musical Partnership](#), who provide individual lessons on all concert band instruments. Tutors come directly to the school to work with students.

Private lessons are \$41+GST per half hour for each individual lesson. Musical Partnerships can offer paired lessons which are \$28+GST per half hour.

Band Camp

Bourke Street Public school will hold an annual band camp for all members. At this point in time, it is planned that the camp will take place at Stanwell Tops.



At the camp, students will be provided with intensive music tuition and rehearsals mixed with recreational activities hosted by the venue.

Students will have the opportunity to perform for their adults upon their return from band camp. **More information will be communicated later in the year.**

Instrument Hire



The NSW Government Arts Unit has a large collection of instruments available for hire families with children attending Government schools. Instruments are available for hire on a term by term or annual basis.

Visit [Instrument Hire](#) to see full costs and Terms of Conditions.

Instrument Purchase

Once a child shows dedication and commitment to their instruments, families may choose to purchase an instrument for their child. The following is general advice in respect of purchasing an instrument:

- Shop around to find the best price.
- Ensure you are purchasing a trusted brand.
- Seek a recommendation from a tutor or a professional player.
- Ensure you have a warranty and are eligible for free service if possible.

Band Rehearsals

Each band rehearses weekly in the **school library**. Both rehearsals start at 8:10 and run for a 40-minute duration. Students are to arrive at 8:00am to assist with set up.

Band members **are expected to attend all rehearsals**. Regular attendance and punctuality are extremely important for all band members. All students will assist in the set up and pack up of all instruments.

Performance Band

Monday
8:00 - 8:50am

Training Band

Thursday
8:00 - 8:50am

Please ensure to email Claire Johnson at claire.johnson47@det.nsw.edu.au if your child is going to be absent from a rehearsal.

Band Performances

There are already many performance opportunities already planned for students in both bands.

Assembly Performances

Students will perform at the school assembly each term.

Performance Band

Week 4

Training Band

Week 8

Morning Performances

In the last week of each term, both bands will perform from 8:30am onwards on the morning of their rehearsal.

Performance Band

Monday Week 10 (or 11)
Every Term
8:30am onwards

Training Band

Thursday Week 10 (or 11)
Every Term
8:30am onwards

REGISTER FOR 2022

All Families

Term 1 Week 5

All families attend the Band Information Night on **Monday February 21** at 5:30pm.

Term 1 Week 6

A Google Form will be sent through the newsletter to register their child.

Existing Students

Term 1 Week 6

- Families complete Google Form to register student information.

Term 1 Week 7

- Rehearsals resume for existing students of both bands.

New Students

Term 1 Week 5

- Years 3-6 students attend the **Instrumental Matching Session** in the hall on **Thursday February 24** in their stage time allocation.

Years 3-4

1:30-2:15pm
School Hall

Years 5-6

2:15pm – 2:45pm
School Hall

Term 1 Week 6

- Families receive a confirmation letter with instrument allocation.
- Families complete Google Form to register student information.

Term 1 Weeks 8-11

- Families organise instrument hire/purchase.
- Musical Partnership organises tuition for new students.

Term 2 Week 1

- New students join the Training Band.