



**OAKLEIGH STATE SCHOOL
Strings Program**

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STRINGS PROGRAM**

Violin Viola Cello Double Bass

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STRINGS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Education (Queensland) provides a program of free instrumental music lessons to students in years 3,4,5,6. All year 2 students undergo a series of musical tests to determine their suitability for the program.

Tuition is provided on violin, viola, cello and double bass. An ensemble experience is provided for all students once they reach an appropriate level on their instrument. String students have the opportunity to attend Beginner, Junior and Advanced music camps throughout the year.

More information on Queensland's Instrumental Music Programs and Policies can be found at:

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Instrumental-Music-Program.aspx>

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Aims and Objectives of the Instrumental Music Program are:

- To musically develop students through instrumental instruction on a group basis.
- To provide ensemble experience for students, so that they can develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their music education, through participation in a String Orchestra as soon as their skills reach an appropriate level.
- To complement the school's classroom music programs.



OAKLEIGH STATE SCHOOL Strings Program

RECRUITMENT

Selection Criteria

Students are selected for the strings program according to the following criteria

- Selmer test (60-question, multiple-choice aural test that assesses students' understanding of pitch, chords, rhythmic and melodic memory)
- Feedback from class teacher, music teacher, administration and Head of Curriculum
- Academic results
- Physical testing of instruments (instrument suitability)

NB – Due to set funding and time allocations, there are limited positions available in the program (~12 per year group). Please note that Education Queensland's Policy for Instrumental Music states that children are only permitted to learn ONE instrument through the school program. Therefore children who accept a place in the strings program ARE NOT eligible to change over and be a part of the Band program in later years.

Student Instrument Preferences

Selected students will be asked to provide instrument preferences. Every effort is made to give students one of their preferences, though other factors are considered such as physical suitability, ensemble needs, instrument availability, etc.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Lessons

Students receive weekly 30-minute lessons in school time. Lessons are in groups ranging in size from 3-10 students. A lesson timetable is located in all classrooms.

Ensembles (Junior and Senior String Orchestra)

Once competent, all instrumental students are required to participate in a String Orchestra.

Current Rehearsal times: Senior Strings (grade 5,6) - 7:30am Wednesdays
 Junior Strings (grade 4) 2nd Break Wednesdays

Student Expectations

1. Practice regularly - 30 minutes, 4 times per week
2. Attend a group lesson every week, bringing all the necessary equipment
3. Attend String Orchestra rehearsals
4. Take part in performances, concerts and instrumental music excursions / camps

Parent/Caregiver Expectations

1. Actively support and encourage your child's musical education and progress
2. Purchase the necessary musical equipment for your child
3. Read emails and newsletters
4. Attend the parent information evening



Some of the many benefits of learning a musical instrument

- Increases your child's intelligence
- Develops important life skills such as patience, perseverance, organisation, leadership, independence, etc
- Improves behaviour & social skills
- Provides many years of fun and constructive leisure activities
- Gives a sense of belonging (to an ensemble) and a member of a team
- Builds self-discipline, commitment and self-esteem
- Broadens career opportunities



OAKLEIGH STATE SCHOOL Strings Program

INSTRUMENTS AND LOANS

Tuition is provided for the following instruments:

Violin Viola Cello and Double Bass

Students selected for the program will be offered the loan of a school instrument first year of tuition. After this time students are expected to provide their own instrument. Larger more expensive instruments such as cellos may be loaned for a period of up to 2 years. A school double bass is available for each year of study (provided your child makes sufficient progress). *NB - Students who already own a suitable instrument are still subject to the same selection process as all other students.*



FEES

Instrumental music lessons are provided free, though there are considerable costs associated with running and maintaining an instrumental music program.

Student Program Resource Fee - \$60 p.a. (all students)

Instrument Hire Fee (additional)- \$100 p.a. (for students loaning a school instrument)

Additional costs for each student

- Tutor book/s
- Accessories such as shoulder rests, rosin, strings and their ongoing replacement
- Music stand – essential for home practice
- Music Camp fees
- Bus costs to some performances

Accessories

Each instrument has its own unique set of accessories that are necessary for the continued performance and care of the instrument. The student must have a continual supply of these equipment requirements. Your child will be given a list of these upon acceptance entry into the program.

Performances and Music Camps

Performances and camps are organised to provide musically enriching experiences for students as well as social interaction between schools in our cluster. There are some costs involved in these activities to cover expenses for specialist tutors, music, bus travel and other items.

Performance Uniform

All strings students are required to wear the following performance uniform at all concerts:

- Oakleigh Music polo shirt (available from the uniform shop - \$42?)
- Long black dress pants
- Black socks
- Polished black leather dress shoes