



Frequently Asked QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?

There has been much research done to show the benefits of learning a musical instrument.

The benefits include improved language and mathematics skills, improving memory, attention and concentration, increased co-ordination, self-discipline, social skills, and as a means of expression. More information can be found at the following link: <https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/articles/musical-benefits>

There is a comprehensive TED-Ed talk on the benefits of learning instruments, called 'How playing an instrument benefits your brain', researched by Dr Anita Collins, a respected Neuromusical educator. This is a motivational presentation with reliable research from neuroscientists, and discusses the links between the visual, auditory and motor cortexes in the brain. Please have a look at the following link for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng>

Other benefits of being able to play musical instruments are to be able to develop musical gifting as a means of expression, to use music as a form of communication, and to stimulate creativity. There is also a social aspect of music - being able to share this gift with others in an ensemble or performance setting, which can help to improve self-confidence, presentation skills and the pure joy of sharing this gift with others.

2. WILL MY CHILD MISS CLASS WORK DUE TO MUSIC LESSONS?

As Instrumental Music lessons are only 30 minutes in duration, students will always attend at least 10 - 15 minutes of each classroom session that they miss. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any missed work by asking other students or their class teacher. Due to the rotational nature of the lessons, this is generally not a major disruption to learning for students. If a student is finding this aspect difficult to manage, an out-of-class fixed lesson time can be requested (although these times are given to the senior students as a priority).

Instrumental Music lessons are not scheduled during Physical or Outdoor Education classes (as sometimes these are offsite).

Where possible, if a student has a clash with an excursion or another calendarized event, this lesson will be rearranged by the Head of Performing Arts (Mrs Anthony). However, students also have the responsibility to communicate a known absence in advance or assessment clash to Mrs Anthony and their instrumental tutor before the preceding Friday, so that the lesson can be rescheduled if possible.

3. WHERE CAN MY CHILD LEAVE HIS/HER INSTRUMENT SECURELY DURING THE DAY?

There is space inside the Arts Office where students can securely store instruments during the day. Instruments should only be left overnight if there is an ensemble rehearsal the next day. Guitar students are not required to bring their own instruments for lessons as the College has many guitars that can be used for private music lessons. However, senior guitar students will need to bring their own instruments (and effects pedals if relevant), to maximise their ability to perform to a high level on their own instrument.



4. WHAT IF MY CHILD FORGETS HIS/HER MUSIC LESSON?

Due to the extensive reminder system outlined below, it is up to the student to remember their lessons, and lessons will not be made up if they are forgotten. Timetables are communicated in the following ways:

1. Emailed to parents with invoices prior to the start of each term.
2. A hard copy of the timetable will be given to students in the first week of term, with their particular lesson times highlighted.
3. Lessons will appear on SEQTA which all students can check by the Monday of each week of lessons.
4. Timetables are displayed outside the Arts Office and in the window of Music Room 6.9.
5. How do I request a change of time due to assessments or known absences?

Students can organise to swap music lesson times if they have a clash with important tests, excursions or other assessments. They need to Direct message the Head of Performing Arts by the Friday prior to the lesson, so the relevant changes can be made. Last minute swaps will not be able to be organised, unless Mrs Anthony has time to organise these – sometimes if 24 hours' notice is given of the clash, a swap can be arranged.

5. WHAT IF I HAVE REQUESTED A 'SHARED' LESSON AND THERE IS NO OTHER STUDENT OF THE SAME AGE OR STAGE WHO CAN SHARE THIS LESSON?

In this situation, the student would be given a shorter instrumental lesson (i.e. 15 - 20 minutes) so that the lower fee would apply to this lesson (i.e. \$22 for a 'shared' lesson). Otherwise, this lesson can be changed to a private lesson after parent/guardian consultation (i.e. \$34 for a full 30-minute lesson) if a match cannot be made for a 'shared' lesson.

6. WHAT IF MY CHILD MISSES A LESSON DUE TO AN UNEXPECTED EVENT OR A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT THAT CANNOT BE MOVED TO ANOTHER DAY?

In the case of an unexpected event or injury (e.g. emergency requiring hospitalisation or an injury preventing the playing of an instrument), the lesson will be credited towards the following term (or will be made up that term if timetabling allows). Some Music tutors may be willing to give a music theory lesson in place of a practical lesson in this instance. This will occur in consultation with the Head of Performing Arts and the Head of Arts (if needed). In the case of a specialist appointment booked in advance, the 24-hour advanced notice requirement still stands - in order for tutors and the Head of Performing Arts to organise a make-up lesson or a credit.

7. HOW DO I WITHDRAW FROM INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS IF MY CHILD LOSES INTEREST IN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS?

An email needs to be sent to the Head of Performing Arts by **Week 8** of the previous Term, otherwise the full tuition fee for the following term must be paid.

8. WHAT IF I AM LATE PAYING THE INVOICE FOR THE TERM'S LESSONS?

All instrumental tutors will aim to send invoices during the holidays prior to each term; and will give two weeks duration for these accounts to be settled. If payment is over one week late, then the Head of Performing Arts will remove the student from lessons the following week. If there are extenuating circumstances, an extension of time may be granted, on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the and the Music tutor.

9. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TUTOR IS ABSENT FROM A LESSON?

If a tutor is absent from a lesson, credit will be provided, either in the form of a rescheduled lesson arranged at the College's discretion, or in the form of a credit of lesson fees towards the next term's music tuition account. Instrumental Music Tutors will send a mobile text or email all parents the morning of their absence so that the students do not bring their instruments to College (where relevant).

10. WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT FORGETS HIS/HER INSTRUMENT?

Kennedy Baptist College have spare pianos, guitars and drum kits in the relevant lesson rooms. Woodwind, Brass and String students must still attend the scheduled music lesson if they forget their instrument, as the Music Tutors can use this time to focus on music note-reading or theory aspects. No credits or rescheduled lessons will apply in this situation.



Practice Tips and SUGGESTIONS



Suggested practice lengths can be seen below:

- Year 7-9 students:
30 - 35 minutes per day, five days per week.
- Year 10-11 students:
35 - 40 minutes per day, five days per week.
- Year 11 ATAR Music students:
40 - 50 minutes per day, six days per week.
- Year 12 ATAR Music students:
45 - 60 minutes per day, six days per week.

Ultimately your tutor will help you determine how long you should practice and will give verbal feedback about your progress on your instrument.

1. HOW OFTEN SHOULD A STUDENT PRACTICE AND HOW LONG FOR?

Regular daily practice is ideal, as the constant skill-building approach is the best long-term for development of skills on a musical instrument. Individual music practice is absolutely essential for students to become better musicians.

Beginner musicians do not need long practice sessions to make progress compared with more advanced musicians. The better a student becomes, the longer the practice sessions will have to be if they want to keep progressing. Professional musicians still need to practice for many hours every day.

As learning instruments combines fine-motor skills with note-reading with body co-ordination and also accessing the emotional intelligence part of the brain, there are many neural pathways that take years to develop.

2. HOW CAN I STRUCTURE MY PRACTICE SESSIONS?

- Establish a space, which is conducive to productive practice - preferably equipped with a music stand and any other resources that may be required (e.g. a metronome to help keep in time and develop a stronger sense of beat).
- Set this space up in a way that you are motivated to practice there.
- Consider your weekly schedule to work out the best time to practice - establish a regular practice routine and stick to this as much as possible.
- Record (or film) yourself rehearsing or performing to learn more of habits that you may not be aware of.
- 'Warm up' / work on your technique - at least 30% of each practice session.
- 'Cool down' at the end - perhaps play your favourite piece of music for enjoyment.