



Expression of Interest in the Department of Education Instrumental Music Program 2025

(PLEASE RETURN BY **Friday 8th November, Term 4**) to the front office.
Formal Offers Will Be Sent Out **Friday 22nd November**

Dear Parents / Guardians

Your child's current Primary School is included in the Department of Education's Instrumental Music Tuition Scheme. Your child is in a Year group currently being considered for tuition in a selective program with limited vacancies. It is important that both you and your child, fully understand the commitment, before deciding to indicate interest in being considered.

Instrumental music skills do not bloom overnight! They are built carefully and steadily over many years, and success in the program requires sustained commitment by both children and parents.

It is expected that students who are offered a position are prepared to consider commitment until at least the end of Year 10 and will plan to continue music studies at a secondary school that offers the instrumental music program for their instrument. In many cases, the instrumental teachers in primary schools also teach in the area secondary school, ensuring continuity of instruction.

Please note that every endeavour is made to provide ongoing tuition at your local secondary school, but it may not be possible for all instruments or all students. If your school has a local-intake area and your usual place of residence is within that area, your children are automatically accepted into that school. If you reside outside the local-intake area enrolment is not guaranteed. Local-intake area information for each school is at <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do>. Please check with your instrumental teacher if the instrument on offer is available at the secondary school in your local-intake area.

Students are given weekly lessons in small groups by a qualified teacher/musician employed through the Department of Education's Instrumental Music School Services (SIM). There is no charge for tuition, which is conservatively valued at \$1,500 per annum. To make progress, **daily home practice is also essential**. Parents have a vitally important and active role to play in encouraging their child to make this commitment. As the child progresses, practice time will increase. When ready, s/he will be expected to participate in an instrumental ensemble that rehearses out of school hours and undertakes performances in the school and community, often also out of school hours.

Students of classical guitar are required to supply their instruments at the commencement of tuition. Parents of students playing other instruments are encouraged to obtain their child's instrument right from the start of tuition as this is a sound financial decision for those who can afford it, saving a significant amount of the purchase price in the longer term. It is strongly recommended that you wait until you have been advised by instrumental teachers on appropriate instruments before purchasing. Successful applicants will be provided with a shopping list.

Loan of Department-owned flutes, clarinets, trumpets and trombones are available (on request through your child's school) for the first year if required. Cellos are available for two years and baritones and double basses are available for the duration of participation. Parents are required to pay a non-refundable instrumental charge of **\$110** to the School **before** taking possession of a Department-owned instrument. This amount covers depreciation, routine maintenance and repairs. It does not cover wilful damage, negligence or loss, for which parents will generally be held liable.



The conditions are highlighted in the **Instrumental Loan Agreement** that the **School** will request parents sign. At the end of the designated loan period, parents will need to either purchase or privately hire a suitable instrument.

A music stand for home practice is required and certain instrumental accessories may need to be purchased upon request by the teacher. An instrumental student journal will be provided free of charge each year, but tutor books and other music must also be purchased by parents. Purchase of music stand, accessories and books could be expected to cost around \$100 in the first year.

Final selection of students will be made by the school in consultation with instrumental teachers. Selected students will receive a formal letter of offer by 22nd November.

Selection criteria are:

- student interest in learning the instrument offered;
- parental commitment and support;
- musical ability as demonstrated in class music lessons;
- general ability in class, consistency of school work, attitude towards homework;
- physical suitability for the instrument on offer; and performance results on a musical aptitude indicator.

A district-wide meeting of the parents of children who receive an offer will be held. Parents will be sent details from the school before this meeting and will have the opportunity to meet the instrumental music teachers and ask any questions they may have. It will ensure that they fully understand both what is offered and the commitment that they and their child will be making before final acceptance.

If you wish for your child to be considered for selection in the Instrumental Music Program, please complete the expression of interest attached and return it to your child's school.

Kevin Fraser

PRINCIPAL

Instrumental Music School Services



Dear Parents & Guardians,

The details of the parent meeting held by IMSS are found on the website. All students and parents have been urged to consider their application in the IMSS music program regarding expectations and dependent on the student satisfying the following criteria (set by IMSS and Forest Crescent Primary School) set below.

- The student is committing to a government primary school in Year 6 and a strong possibility of continuing their education in a government high school.
 - The student can handle the demands of the normal Year 5 school academic program and not have their normal school achievement levels decline through taking onboard this extracurricular program.
 - The student realises that the instrumental program can be very rewarding though the learning path will be hard; learning to read music notation and the added complexity the playing of an instrument.
 - Note that students will receive tuition for 30 minutes per week (within normal class time), attend school band practice for 60 minutes per fortnight (times to be advised) as well as practice at home for several days per week. Your instrumental teachers are very supportive but will expect students to attend to practice at home to continue to progress. If extra practise at home is required, then the student will be expected to apply themselves to meet their learning goals.
 - Before accepting a place in the program, careful consideration should be given by both students and their parents to the commitment required to learn instrumental music, particularly in the event of a clash with other interests such as sport, ballet, PEAC classes. **If IMSS lessons clash with another extra-curricular activity, then IMSS must be considered a priority.** Overcommitment in several activities making competing demands on student time is a big factor in student drop-out from instrumental music in the first two to three years. The times of Forest Crescent Primary School's IMSS lessons are determined by the Department of Education, not individual schools.
 - Please note that guitar lessons focus on the classical guitar technique.
 - Have an attitude of perseverance, focus and commitment. It is frustrating for both IMSS and the school to have a student sign up for the program and then partway through Year 5, they end up leaving the program. This means that another Year 5 student was denied a place in the program at the start of 2025.
 - Realise that there is an instrument hire fee for Year 5 students, who are selected for the program, of \$110 for the year. Only guitar students will be expected to purchase their guitar for the start of the 2025 program. All Year 5 students will be expected to purchase their instrument, whether that is a second-hand or brand-new purchase, for the continuation of their Year 6 instrumental program in 2026. All parents must be willing to purchase the required instrument at the start of the Year 6 program. A guide for purchasing instruments is found on the Forest Crescent Website
 - Students who provide their instruments are not required to pay the instrument charge.
 - Maintenance and repairs to privately owned instruments must also be organised privately.
 - If a student is learning from a private teacher they may not learn the same instrument from a Department Teacher. This is to avoid conflicts of interest in teaching methodology.
 - Parents or guardians of selected students are asked to enter into an agreement with the school. They are required to complete a loan agreement form in which they indicate their acceptance of responsibility for the instrument their child is using. This agreement is retained by the school. It is recommended that parents consider insurance cover for the instrument while it is allocated to their child.
 - RiskCover will not cover Department of Education instruments (owned and on loan to schools) travelling to and from school, whilst at private residences or left at school outside of required use by the school.
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- RiskCover will cover Department of Education instruments (Owned and on loan to schools) whilst at school (for school use) and on tour, nationally and internationally.
- Note that the music grades awarded by the Forest Crescent music teacher and school class performance may be taken into consideration when deciding the final selection of students.
- Students accepting flute, clarinet or brass will meet the woodwind and brass instrumental teachers, at a time to be determined, to be tested to see if the student has any issues using the mouthpiece of these instruments. This will occur in the latter part of Term 4.

Parents are urged not to purchase instruments (guitars and other instruments) until the final selection is confirmed in writing. Instrumental teachers can also advise on what brand of an instrument is the preferred choice. If you have any issues, feel free to ring me at school.

PLEASE NOTE:

As a participant in the instrumental program, Forest Crescent Primary School requires that each child will regularly attend band rehearsal commencing Term 2 (usually one lunchtime per week 1:20 to 2:00pm-times to be advised).

Parent information evenings SHOULD be held in various venues in the week commencing **Monday 25th November, for parents (Week 8)** to find out more information about the Instrumental Music School program for 2025.

Meetings will begin at 7.30pm and should conclude by 8.30pm. Direction signs from the main school entrance to the venue will be displayed on site.

Parents who are unable to attend the meeting closest to their home are welcome to attend another venue on another night.

MEETING TIMES ARE POSTED ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. To register, use the TryBooking link listed below each venue.

Mr Brad Combes
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
IMSS Coordinator, 2024

Ms Rebekah Britten
MUSIC SPECIALIST TEACHER
2024



**Expression of Interest in the
 Department of Education Instrumental Music Program 2025**

Student Name: _____ **Year:** 4

I would like my child to be considered for Instrumental Music Tuition on:

- Please label the following musical instruments based on your order of preference (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th).
- Your child may not get their first choice; however, we do send out another confirmation letter before assigning an instrument. Students who have elected to play clarinet, flute or brass (trumpet, etc) will have a quick test with the relevant instrumental teacher to check their suitability to use the mouthpiece of the aforementioned instruments. If a student is learning from a private teacher, they may not learn the same instrument from a Department Teacher. This is to avoid conflicts of interest in teaching methodology.

Guitar

Flute

Clarinet

Brass
(Trumpet,
Trombone)

OR

- Sorry, we are not interested in selection at this time.

If you indicated interest, please complete the following:

- 1. Extra curricular activities and approximate time per week** (eg: sport, ballet, gymnastics, private music lessons).

- 2. Is there any other information you would like to add to assist us in making a selection?**

Parent / Guardian signature: _____

Phone contact: _____ **Date:** _____

**Please direct any specific queries regarding your child's possible involvement to
 Mr Brad Combes, Deputy Principal, or Ms Rebekah Britten, FCPS Music Specialist Teacher**
