

KEGWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

MUSIC PROGRAM



BAND HANDBOOK

2019



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT INSTRUMENTS PLAY IN A CONCERT BAND?

The concert bands at Kegworth include flutes, oboe, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, French horns, trombones, baritones, bass guitar, keyboards, drums and percussion.

WHICH STUDENTS CAN JOIN A BAND?

The concert bands at Kegworth are open to all children in Years 2 – 6. Year 1 students may join in terms 3 and 4. Students in Years 1 and 2 are encouraged to begin with drums, percussion or keyboard. Woodwind and brass instruments are usually better suited to older students.

HOW MANY LESSONS ARE NEEDED BEFORE STUDENTS JOIN A BAND?

At Kegworth, band students with no prior experience join Junior Band. Students with playing experience will be placed in a suitable band by the Band Conductor.

WHERE DO THE CONCERT BANDS PERFORM?

There are exciting and varied performance opportunities for the concert bands at Kegworth. At school, Kegworth Bands may perform in assemblies, band workshops, Expo Open Day, Education Week, Grand-Friends Day, Autumn FARE, Music Night and Music Camp.

Community-based opportunities may include the NSW School Band Festival, Performing Arts Challenge, Inner West Ensembles Festival, Big Band Bash, Primarily Fun, local school fetes, shopping centres and community centres.

DO STUDENTS NEED PRIVATE LESSONS WITH A TUTOR?

YES – individual weekly lessons with a professional tutor provide band students with the skills and techniques needed to play with confidence and as part of a large ensemble.

WHAT WEEKLY TIME COMMITMENT IS NEEDED?

Band students are required to:

- Have a weekly private lesson (usually half hour) on their chosen instrument.
- Attend ALL band rehearsals, workshops and performances during the year.
- Practise regularly at home to make progress – at least three to four times a week.

DO STUDENTS NEED TO SIGN A BAND CONTRACT?

YES – to ensure the Music Program at Kegworth is providing the best opportunities, students agree to commit to the Band Program for a year.

DO STUDENTS HIRE OR BUY INSTRUMENTS?

There are several options available – both hiring and buying. Please see Page 5.



WHY JOIN AN INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE?

*Band involvement can be fun, hard work and exciting.
Students can develop musical skills and gain valuable social skills,
becoming an integral member of an ensemble.*

- ★ Part of learning an instrument is performing to an audience. An ensemble provides a less threatening performance opportunity for children.
- ★ An ensemble provides a comfortable environment where children can work towards challenging yet attainable goals as part of an ensemble.
- ★ An ensemble provides opportunities to develop self-confidence and higher self-esteem.
- ★ Children make friends across the grades and from other schools.
- ★ Being in an ensemble helps children develop responsibility and self-discipline as they practice their instrument and attend rehearsals.
- ★ Public performances motivate a sense of purpose for the ensemble members and enhances the school community when they represent their school.
- ★ Music participation enhances problem solving, team work, goal setting, self-expression, co-ordination, memory skills, self-confidence, physical skills and concentration.

Find out more about the benefits of Music Education here:

www.musicaustralia.org.au/discover/parental-engagement

Find out more about choosing an instrument here:

www.musicaustralia.org.au/discover/parental-engagement/choosing-an-instrument-for-your-child



KEGWORTH MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Kegworth Music Committee is a parent volunteer sub-committee of the P&C and assists the school in the organisation of the valuable Music Program.

WHEN - WHERE - WHY?

The Music Committee AGM is held at the beginning of the school year and regular meeting times are advertised in the School Newsletter.

Music Committee Meetings are held in the School Staffroom on the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm

The Music Committee is made up of volunteer parents who are working to achieve the best they can for the Music Program at Kegworth. It relies on assistance from parents and caregivers.

Without parent and caregivers volunteering their time for key roles and supporting their child's ensemble, the Kegworth Music Program cannot run successfully.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Each Band requires at least one parent to support the Band throughout the year. The role of the Band Parent Coordinator is:

- Liaise and communicate with the Music Committee,
- Communicate relevant information with Band Ensemble parents throughout the year e.g. reminders of upcoming events via email,
- Help the Music Committee to organise school or external music performances,
- Co-ordinate parent rosters to assist with performance transportation, setting and packing up;
- Check and record student attendance at weekly rehearsals,
- Attend Music Committee meetings, where possible.

Kegworth Music Committee also offers executive roles such as President, Treasurer and Secretary, and other roles to liaise with tutors, organise instruments, and coordinate communications.

Parents are most welcome to join the Music Committee at any time throughout the year and we would love to have your input!



INSTRUMENTS

★ Woodwind and Brass

Band students are required to buy or 'outside' hire their flute, oboe, or saxophone and accessories like reeds or valve oil.

Baritones, trumpets, clarinets, trombones and French horns are available to hire from the school for one year. It may be possible to continue hiring these instruments after one year however preference will be given to new players.

★ Percussion

Students selected for mallets/glockenspiel and percussion/drums can use school instruments for band and lessons.

Drum players will need to purchase a practice pad and a pair of drum sticks for home use. Percussionists should have a home drum kit by Senior Band level.

★ Bass Guitars and Keyboards

Students starting bass guitar are required to buy or 'outside' hire their instrument and small amp. Keyboard players can use a school instrument for rehearsals but should have their own at home.

HIRING A SCHOOL INSTRUMENT

★ Instrument Hire and Fees

Parents/caregivers interested in their child hiring an instrument from the school should contact the band conductor or front office.

If an instrument is available, fill in a hire form with the asset number of the instrument which has been allocated to you. Collection of the instrument can be organised on returning the form to the front office.

The cost of hiring a school instrument in 2019 is \$45 per term.

★ Insurance of Instruments

All school instruments are covered by the school insurance policy for loss or theft whilst on school premises. Once the instrument is outside the school it is not covered.

As you do not own the instrument, it is not normally covered by your personal effects or home contents policy so it is essential that you specifically insure the instrument. A call to your insurer should ensure the instrument is covered.

Privately owned instruments can be included in a personal effects policy.

SOURCING AN INSTRUMENT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Good quality student instruments are an investment and hold their value over the years. Reputable brands include Yamaha, Jupiter, Selmer, Buffet, Bach and Conn. Consult a tutor, instrument repairer or band conductor before you buy an instrument.

'Outside' Hire - Music stores have monthly hiring schemes. Some allow you to pay off the instrument while you hire. Prices are approximately from \$40 a month/3 month minimum.

New - shop around for value. Online stores may offer cheaper but check the brand. Many cheap imports are frustrating for students. Good instrument = good sound.

Second hand – online sites like Gumtree offer possible bargains from students upgrading or ceasing. Take care to get advice – cheap is possibly nasty.



2019 BAND PROGRAM COST

Band Fees are currently set at \$390 and are payable per term:

Term 1 - \$90

Term 2 - \$100

Term 3 - \$100

Term 4 - \$100

Fees support conductor fees for rehearsals and performances, school-based workshops, band ensemble music, administration costs and competition entry.

All beginning students will require a music stand (approximately \$20) to use when they practice at home. Some performances may also require students to provide their own collapsible music stand.

Some special events might incur additional costs, eg competition entry or bus travel to events - this will be invoiced or requested separately.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Please pay your Band fees by the date specified on your invoice.

You will be sent a reminder letter, but if payment is not received, your child will be withdrawn from the Band Program.

As always, if you are having difficulty meeting the required payments, please contact the School Principal, via the front office.



BAND TIMES AND COMMITMENT

In 2019, Kegworth Bands rehearse before school, in the Music Hall. Rehearsals days are:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| ★ Senior Band | Wednesday morning | 8:00 – 9:00 am |
| ★ Junior Band | Thursday mornings | 8:00 – 9:00 am |

Rehearsal days are subject to change. Please keep an eye on the school newsletter in the new year.

Students are asked to arrive by 7:50am to set up and be ready to play by 8:00am.

BAND STUDENTS COMMIT TO THE BAND PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR

- A “*Band Contract*” stating your child’s commitment to the program is to be completed prior to commencement in the Band.
- It is very important that students attend rehearsals every week.
- Missing rehearsals affects the whole Band – encourage your child to be part of a team.
- Parents/carers are required to send an email or note to the Conductor if a rehearsal is going to be missed.

FOLLOWING UP AT HOME

Support is a key element in your child’s musical success.

You can help your child by:

- ★ Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- ★ Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible
- ★ Scheduling a consistent, daily time for practice
- ★ Praising your child’s efforts and achievements
- ★ Encouraging your child to discuss their lessons with you
- ★ Making sure your child’s instrument is in good working order
- ★ Encouraging your child to play many different types of music
- ★ Not using practice as a punishment

If your child loses interest, please discuss this situation with both your child’s Tutor and Conductor. Remember to discuss your concerns with your child to determine why their interest is declining and encourage your child to stick with the instrument for a set amount of time.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All Kegworth Band Program students are required to attend a 30 minute weekly private lesson. Professional tuition teaches the students' correct technique, music notation, sight reading and musicality.

The Music Committee facilitates an after school tutorial program in all instruments with qualified teachers. Contact the front office for a current list of available tutors

The rate per private lesson is \$40 per half hour in 2019

Payment is organised directly between you and the tutor, not through the School Office.

Parents who organise tutors outside of school should consider the qualifications and experience of the Tutor. Avoid having your child learn from high school students or inexperienced tutors - the lessons can be cheaper but lead to problems with technique and reading.



MUSIC UNIFORM

All Kegworth Music students will need a white Music T - shirt which can be purchased from the school "Uniform Shop" (approx \$26)

Details for ordering through the "Uniform Shop" can be found in the school's Newsletter. Some sizes may need to be ordered in advance so please organise your shirt promptly after joining.

Kegworth Band Ensemble Uniform is as follows:

- White Music T – shirt
- Blue Shorts / Skort
- White ankle length socks
- Black shoes

Please ensure that you have your child's Music Uniform ready as soon as you have joined your ensemble at the beginning of the year, as some ensemble performances can be as early as the first few weeks into Term 1 (e.g. Autumn FARE)



WHAT DO I DO NOW?

If your child wishes to join the Band Program in 2019, fill in the attached application form and return it to the School Office, ***no later than Friday 7 December 2018***

The Kegworth Band Conductor will look at student preferences and the composition of the band and allocate instruments.

The Band Conductor may audition your child for instrument suitability – size of fingers and hands, dental differences and height may determine the instrument allocated. **The school will facilitate a ‘blow test’ session during school hours for Years 2-4 students on Thursday 29 November 2018.** Interested students who are in other year groups should contact the Band Conductor through the front office.

All efforts are made to ensure that as many children as possible get their first preference. Please keep an open mind about instrument choice as we need a balanced ensemble. Instruments such as French Horn, Trombone and Baritone are vital to the overall sound of the band and competent players of these instruments are highly sought after in high school bands.

Information regarding the instrument allocated to your child for 2019 will be sent home

If your child was part of a band ensemble in 2018 it is not necessary to resubmit a form. They will be invited to return in 2019.



Thank you for your interest in the Kegworth Public School Band Program!

- Should you have any further queries, please feel free to contact the School Office, Band Conductor, Band Parent Co-ordinators or Music Committee for further information.
- Please contact the School Office at kegworth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

