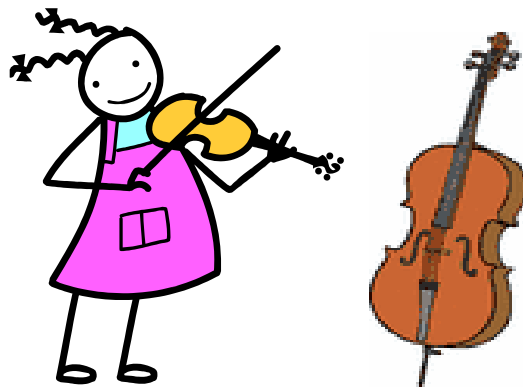


KEGWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

MUSIC PROGRAM



STRING HANDBOOK

2019





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT INSTRUMENTS PLAY IN A STRING ENSEMBLE?

A String Ensemble contains violins, violas, cellos and double basses.

WHICH STUDENTS CAN JOIN A BAND?

Children can join the Junior String Ensemble from Kindergarten onwards. It is a great opportunity to get your child's music education started early. Senior Strings is a group for advanced players with some ensemble experience.

HOW MANY LESSONS ARE NEEDED BEFORE STUDENTS JOIN AN ENSEMBLE?

Before you are able to join Kegworth's Junior String Ensemble, your child will need to have had 10 weeks (1 x term) of lessons. There are String Tutors at the school, as well as many in the local area.

WHERE DO THE ENSEMBLES PERFORM?

There are exciting and varied performance opportunities for the ensembles at Kegworth. At school, Kegworth Strings may perform in assemblies, band workshops, Expo Open Day, Education Week, Grand-Friends Day, Autumn FARE, Music Night, Music Camp, and the Opera House (Senior Strings only).

Community-based opportunities may include the Performing Arts Challenge, Inner West Ensembles Festival, 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 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 string ensemble requires at least one parent to support the ensemble throughout the year. The role of the String Parent Coordinator is:

- Liaise and communicate with the Music Committee,
- Communicate relevant information with 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

The instruments in the String Program are violin, viola, cello and double bass.

★ Obtaining an Instrument

This can be done in number of ways, renting, buying new or second hand. Renting an instrument is highly encouraged. Most young string players will go through 3 or 4 instruments in their time at primary school, and their growth spurts can be hard to predict! Trade-ins are often difficult to obtain and small instruments are hard to on-sell.

★ Instrument Hire and Usage Fees

There are instruments available to rent from the school. Applications for string instrument hire are accepted all year round.

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.

You may alternatively rent from an external provider. Renting from the Sydney String Centre or Musicorp will provide peace of mind: a good quality, well set up instrument, at the correct size, with the correct accessories and insurance. Also, as soon as your child grows up, it as simple as a phone call to swap to the next size.

Sydney String Centre High Street, Chatswood ph: 1300 846 546 or www.violins.com.au

Musicorp Australia Hume St, Crows Nest ph: (02) 9467 4900 or www.musicorp.com.au

★ 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.

Instruments hired from the Sydney String Centre and Musicorp are covered by their own insurance.



2019 STRING PROGRAM COST

Band Fees are currently set at \$390 for the year 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, string 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.



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)



STRING TIMES AND COMMITMENT

Kegworth String Ensembles rehearse before school, in the Music Hall. Rehearsals days are:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ★ Senior Strings | Tuesday morning | 8:00 – 9:00 am |
| ★ Junior Strings | Friday 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.

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

- A “*String Ensemble 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.



WHAT DO I DO NOW?

If your child wishes to join the String 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 String Conductor will look at student preferences and the composition of the band and allocate instruments. **The school will facilitate a 'bow test' session during school hours for Years K-2 students on Thursday 29 November 2018.** After working out a balanced ensemble, a note will be sent home with the allocated instrument on it. All efforts are made to ensure that as many children as possible get their first preferences.

If your child was part of a string 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, String Conductor, String Parent Co-ordinators or Music Committee for further information.
- Please contact the School Office at kegworth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

KEGWORTH MUSIC PROGRAM - 2019
STRING ENSEMBLE APPLICATION FORM

This form is due to the school front office no later than **Friday 7 December 2018**

Student name: Class:

Parent/carer name:

★ Has your child had any previous musical experience? **Yes** **No**

Please give details (*prior experience is not necessary but students will be expected to complete one term of private lessons prior to joining the ensemble practices and performances*)

.....

★ Are any immediate family members involved in musical activities? **Yes** **No**

Please give details:

.....

★ Does your child prefer a particular instrument? Please fill in 2 x instrument preferences. We are looking for a balanced band, so please keep options open to avoid disappointment!

String program instruments are: *violin, viola, cello, double bass*

1. **2.**

★ Is it likely that your child will leave Kegworth PS before completing Year 6? **Yes** **No**

This information helps us to balance the composition of the group being mindful of the future.

PLEASE INDICATE IN EACH BOX BELOW:

*We have read the information booklet and understand the commitment required in joining Kegworth's Band Ensemble - **especially student attendance & punctuality at rehearsals, performances, and a weekly half hour private lesson.***

We understand that as parents we are required to support the Music Program by taking on key roles and responsibilities of the Music Committee and assist in running events such as music workshops and fundraising etc.

We acknowledge that in order to have a musically balanced band, my child's first instrument preference may not be granted.

I / we are available to take on a role within the Music Committee to support the school's Music Program.

Parent email address:

Student signature: Date:

Parent signature: Date: