



KEGWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

2020 MUSIC PROGRAM

BAND HANDBOOK

*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.*

Why join a music ensemble?

- ★ An ensemble provides a comfortable environment where children can work towards challenging yet attainable goals as part of a group.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Part of learning an instrument is performing to an audience. An ensemble provides a less threatening performance opportunity for children.
- ★ 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 at www.musicaustralia.org.au/discover

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, including regular practice and attendance at all rehearsals and performances.

DO STUDENTS HIRE OR BUY INSTRUMENTS?

There are several options available – both hiring and buying. Please see more details overleaf.

INSTRUMENTS

★ Woodwind and Brass

Baritone horns, trumpets, clarinets, trombones, saxophones, flutes and French horns are available to hire from the school, subject to availability. Accessories like reeds and valve oil must be purchased from a music store or online.

★ Percussion

Students selected for 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 2020 is \$45 per term.

★ Insurance of Instruments

All school instruments are covered by the school insurance policy for 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.

2020 BAND PROGRAM COST

Band Fees are currently set at \$390 and are payable per term by the date specified on your school invoice:

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.

MUSIC UNIFORM

All Band students will need a white Kegworth Music T-shirt which can be purchased from the school Uniform Shop (approx \$26). Orders are preferred via the www.flexischools.com.au website. Check the school newsletter for alternative ordering details.

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)

Kegworth Band Ensemble Uniform is as follows:

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



BAND TIMES AND COMMITMENT

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

★ Senior Band	Monday morning	8:00 – 9:00 am
★ Junior Band	Thursday morning	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

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.

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 2020

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.

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. 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.

MEETINGS

Music Committee Meetings are held in the School Staffroom on the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Any variations will be advertised in the school newsletter. All parents are welcome to attend meetings. The Music Committee AGM is held at the end of each school year and is also advertised in the School Newsletter.

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,
- 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!

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

If your child wishes to join the Band Program in 2020, fill in the attached expression of interest form and return it to the School Office, ***no later than Tuesday 25 November 2019***

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 21 November 2019.** 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 will be sent home

If your child was part of a band ensemble in 2019 it is not necessary to resubmit a form. They will be invited to return in 2020.

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.
- Email the school office at kegworth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and your query will be forwarded.



KEGWORTH MUSIC PROGRAM - 2020
BAND ENSEMBLE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please return to the school front office by **Tuesday 25 November 2019.**

Student name: Class in 2019:

Parent/carer name:.....

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

Please give details (*musical experience is not necessary*)

.....
.....

Does your child prefer a particular instrument? We are looking for balanced ensembles, so please keep options open to avoid disappointment!

Band program instruments are: *clarinet, flute, baritone, trombone, French horn, trumpet, saxophone, oboe, percussion, keyboard and bass guitar*

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PLEASE INDICATE IN EACH BOX BELOW:

- We understand the commitment required in joining Kegworth's Music Program - **especially student attendance and 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 possible.*

Parent signature:

Date: