



KEGWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL 2024 MUSIC PROGRAM

CONCERT BAND HANDBOOK



Concert 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, teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, co-ordination, memory skills, self-confidence, physical skills and concentration.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT INSTRUMENTS PLAY IN CONCERT BAND?

The Concert Band welcomes students who play in the following sections: Brass (Trombone, Trumpet, Baritone/Euphonium, French Horn and Tuba), Woodwind (Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Saxophone and Bassoon), Rhythm (Drum Kit/Percussion, Piano/Keyboard, Electric Guitar and Electric Bass). New students are highly encouraged to consider beginning on one of the priority instruments - Trombone, Trumpet, Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute, Euphonium and French Horn.

WHICH STUDENTS CAN JOIN THE CONCERT BAND?

The Concert Band at Kegworth is open to all children in Years 3 – 6.

Students in Year 2 *may* be able to join on selected instruments – drums, percussion or keyboard if places are available, or appropriate woodwind or brass instruments depending on the student's height, hand span, and breath strength. Parents and carers of interested year 2 students can submit an expression of interest with their preferences. The school or conductor may make contact to discuss the best options.

HOW MANY LESSONS ARE NEEDED BEFORE STUDENTS JOIN CONCERT BAND?

Students can join Junior Concert Band with no prior experience. They can start attending rehearsals as soon as they have their instrument organised.

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?

Students are required to:

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

DO STUDENTS HIRE OR BUY INSTRUMENTS?

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

WHERE DO THE BANDS PERFORM?

There are exciting and varied performance opportunities for the Concert Band at Kegworth. At school, Kegworth Concert Band may perform in assemblies, band workshops, Expo Open Day, Education Week, community breakfasts, Christmas Fair and Music Night.

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.

HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

To let us know of your interest in the Concert Band program, please fill out the Expression of Interest form available at the end of this handbook or the e-form in the 'Forms' section of the [School Bytes Portal](https://portal.schoolbytes.education/forms) <https://portal.schoolbytes.education/forms>

If your first preference is available, you will receive an acceptance letter. The letter includes a student contract for you to read together and return - students are asked to commit to the band program, including regular practice and attendance at all rehearsals and performances.

At this point we will also send you a list of Kegworth music tutors for you to contact and recommend that you begin sourcing an instrument.

If your first preference is not available, the office or Band Conductor will usually contact you to discuss options.

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.

★ Rhythm/Percussion

Students selected for Percussion/Drums and Bass Guitars can use school instruments for rehearsals and lessons.

Drum players will need to purchase a practice pad and a pair of drumsticks for home use. Percussionists should have a home drum kit by Senior Band level. Students starting Bass Guitar or Keyboard are required to buy or 'outside' hire their instrument for at-home practice.

HIRING A SCHOOL INSTRUMENT

★ Instrument Hire and Fees

Parents/caregivers interested in their child hiring an instrument from the school should contact the school front office. If an instrument is available, collection of the instrument can be organised on the completion of an instrument hire form, available from office staff.

The cost of hiring a school instrument in 2024 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.

'Outside' hire or purchase – The Department of Education Arts Unit, online music stores, and local music stores may have monthly hiring schemes. Some allow you to pay off the instrument while you hire. If buying 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.

The Arts Unit artsunit.nsw.edu.au/resources/instrument-hire

Musicorp www.musicorp.com.au

Presto Instruments prestoinstruments.com.au

Better Music www.bettermusic.com.au/rental

Sax and Woodwind www.saxandwoodwind.com.au

Solar Music Brass and Woodwind solarmusic.com.au/collections/student

Prestige Musical Instruments pmi.com.au

Logans Pianos www.loganspianos.com.au

Second hand – Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace offer possible bargains from students upgrading or ceasing. Take care to get advice – cheap instruments may be poor quality or poorly maintained.

PROGRAM COST

Fees are set at **\$390** for 2024, invoiced 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, 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, e.g. competition entry or bus travel to events - this will be invoiced or requested separately.

MUSIC UNIFORM

All music students will need a white Kegworth music t-shirt which can be purchased from the school Uniform Shop via www.flexischools.com.au. Check the school newsletter for alternative ordering details. Shirts cost approximately \$26 new or \$12 second-hand (subject to availability).

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 Fair).

Kegworth Band Ensemble uniform is as follows:

- White music t-shirt
- Blue shorts/skort
- White ankle length socks
- Black shoes



TIMES & COMMITMENT

Kegworth Concert Band rehearse before school in the Assembly Hall (enter via Kegworth Street gates). **Students are asked to arrive by 7:50am to set up and be ready to play by 8:00am** for all rehearsals.

Ensemble	Rehearsal day	Rehearsal time
Junior Band	Monday mornings	8:00 – 9:00 am
Senior Band	Wednesday mornings	8:00 – 9:00 am

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 Band 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 Concert Band members 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 2024 rate per private lesson is \$45 per half hour

Payment is organised directly between you and the tutor, not through the School Front 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 online on the first Monday of each month at 7pm. 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?

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

- ★ 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 monthly online 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.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

For new students entering the Kegworth Music Program or existing students who wish to join an additional ensemble, visit the [School Bytes Portal](https://portal.schoolbytes.education/forms) <https://portal.schoolbytes.education/forms> and submit the '2024 Music Program Expression of Interest' form. Alternatively, fill out the form at the end of this Handbook and return it to the Front Office.

If your child was part of a Band Ensemble last year, it is not necessary to resubmit a form. They will be invited to return in 2024. The Kegworth Band Conductor will look at student preferences and the composition of the band and allocate instruments.

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

Should you have any further queries, please feel free to contact the School Office, Band Conductor, Band Coordinator or Music Committee for further information. Email the school office at kegworth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and your query will be forwarded.

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

KEGWORTH MUSIC PROGRAM - 2024
BAND ENSEMBLE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please return to the School Front Office. This form is also available as an e-form in the 'Forms' section of the [School Bytes Portal](#).

Student Name: Student's Year in 2024:

Parent/Carer Name:

Please list your instrument preferences below:

Band program instruments include Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Percussion/Drum Kit and Bass Guitar.

1. 2.
3. 4.

Has your child played any of these instruments before? Yes No

If so, for how long? Have they had any private lessons?
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PLEASE INDICATE IN EACH BOX BELOW:

- I have read the Music Handbook and understand the commitment required in joining the Music Program. **This includes supporting my child in practicing their instrument at home, attending Band rehearsals punctually, extra performances and workshops outside of school hours.***
- I understand that I am required to support the Music Committee in running events such as workshops and fundraising.*
- I acknowledge that in order to have a musically balanced band, my child's first instrument preference may not be possible.*

Parent/Carer signature: Date: