



# KEGWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL 2024 MUSIC PROGRAM

## STRING HANDBOOK



*String Ensemble 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 STRING ENSEMBLE?**

The String Ensemble welcomes students who play the Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass.



### **WHICH STUDENTS CAN JOIN THE ENSEMBLE?**

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 one term (10 weeks) 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, workshops, Expo Open Day, Education Week, Grand-Friends Day, Christmas Fair, 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?

Ensemble 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 NEED TO SIGN A MUSIC CONTRACT?

YES – to ensure the music program at Kegworth is providing the best opportunities, students agree to commit to the strings 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 below.

## INSTRUMENTS

### 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 sell on.

### Instrument Hire and Usage Fees

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

Parents/caregivers interested in their child hiring an instrument from the school should contact the school 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 2023 is \$45 per term.**

You may alternatively rent from an external provider. Renting from a quality provider 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 is to swap to the next size.

**Department of Education Arts Unit** [www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/resources/instrument-hire](http://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/resources/instrument-hire)

**Sydney String Centre** [www.violins.com.au](http://www.violins.com.au)

**Musicorp Australia** [www.musicorp.com.au](http://www.musicorp.com.au)

**Young Fiddler** [youngfiddler.com.au](http://youngfiddler.com.au)

### 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.

Instruments hired from outside suppliers are often covered by their own insurance – check with the supplier.

## 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](http://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.

*The Kegworth String Ensemble uniform is as follows:*

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



## TIMES & COMMITMENT

String Ensembles rehearse before school in the Music Hall (enter via Tebbutt 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 Strings	Monday mornings	8:00 – 9:00 am
Senior Strings	Thursday mornings	8:00 – 9:00 am

It is very important that students attend rehearsals every week. Missing rehearsals affects the whole ensemble – 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 String 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 String 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 Sting Ensemble requires at least one parent to support the String Ensembles throughout the year.

The role of the String Parent Coordinator is:

- Liaise and communicate with the Music Committee
- Communicate relevant information with String 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.

The Kegworth String Conductor will look at student preferences and the composition of the ensemble 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.

**Information regarding the instrument allocated to your child will be sent home.**

If your child was part of a string ensemble in 2023 it is not necessary to resubmit a form. They will be invited to return in 2024.

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

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



**KEGWORTH MUSIC PROGRAM - 2024**  
**STRING 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:  
*String Ensemble instruments are Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass*

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 String Ensemble 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 ensemble, my child's first instrument preference may not be possible.*

Parent/Carer signature: ..... Date: .....