



Department of  
Education

# Welcome to the Parent Information Evening



**LEARNING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**  
~ A Sound Investment ~

**Instrumental Music  
School Services  
(IMSS)**

**Shaping the future**

Version: IMSS Website  
25 November 2024



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Education**  
Instrumental Music School Services

## Acknowledgement of Country

*We would like to show our respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, of Elders past and present, on which this event takes place. We also acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all children and people in this country we all live in and share together – Australia.*



<https://whytravel.org/songlines-travel-song-and-creation/>



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## **PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING:**

- To outline how the instrumental music program works.
- To help you make the right choice for your child.
- To help you support your child.



## MUSIC IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Music is:

- A discipline of *The Arts Learning Area*.
- Part of the curriculum in public primary schools.
- Available to lower secondary and senior school students in public high schools.



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## **PARTICIPATION IN MUSIC**

Development in:

- Specific musical skills.
- General cognitive, social and emotional skills.
- Performance opportunities in the local and wider community.
- Appreciating music as a listener.
- Self esteem and self confidence.



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## ABOUT IMSS

IMSS is a service provider for Department of Education public schools. We have a 3-year school plan to inform the direction in which we deliver this service.

**IMSS Motto:** *Engage : Inspire : Create*

**Vision statement:** We provide a rich environment where students have opportunities and pathways for inspiration, success in music and personal excellence.

**Purpose statement:** To provide quality teaching, diverse and stimulating performance and enrichment opportunities, supporting every instrumental music student to realise their full potential.



## ABOUT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

(1/3)

- It is an enrichment/extension for students who demonstrate special aptitude through a testing and selection process that includes physical suitability.
- The program requires commitment and special effort over an extended period of time.
- Places are limited and eagerly sought.
- Continuity into high school is important (where available) – the benefits will grow over the years. Please contact your local high school to check on the instruments they offer.
- Check *'find a public school'* link via the Department home page.  
[www.education.wa.edu.au](http://www.education.wa.edu.au)



## ABOUT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

(2/3)

### Selective Music schools:

- Gifted and Talented Music Schools include:
  - Churchlands Senior High School
  - John Curtin College of the Arts

For more information on GATE programs, see  
<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented>

### Specialist Music schools:

- Several regional and metropolitan schools have approved specialist music programs.

For more information on approved specialist programs, see  
<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/approved-specialist-programs>





## ABOUT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

(3/3)

- Approximately 400 primary and 85 secondary schools offer instrumental music across the state.
- There are approximately 20,000 students from Year 3 to Year 12 in the IMSS program.
- Many who started in the IMSS program have worked professionally in music.
- Many students continue to enjoy their musical experience through a range of music activities.



## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

(1/3)

- It is planned as an area/cluster scheme.
- It builds on the class music program.
- It is a partnership between:
  - the school
  - the parents
  - the students
  - the IMSS teachers



## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

(2/3)

- The number of places in the program is limited.
- Instrumental music tuition is based on group lessons.
- There are social benefits from learning with others.
- Instruments are introduced at different year levels.



## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

(3/3)

- Students must commit to a single teacher for their instrument – either Department or private, but not both.
- Students already learning another instrument must consider how they will balance the demands of learning two instruments.
- Students with many other interests should consider how well they can manage their time.



## ENSEMBLE OPPORTUNITIES

- School ensemble experiences may include:
  - concert band
  - orchestra
  - classical guitar ensemble
  - vocal ensemble
  - jazz, contemporary and chamber ensembles
- Some primary schools have:
  - string ensembles
  - junior concert bands
- Most teachers encourage:
  - duets and trios in the class
  - incorporating instruments into class music activities and performances



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## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Instrumental Music School Services promotes performance opportunities which include:

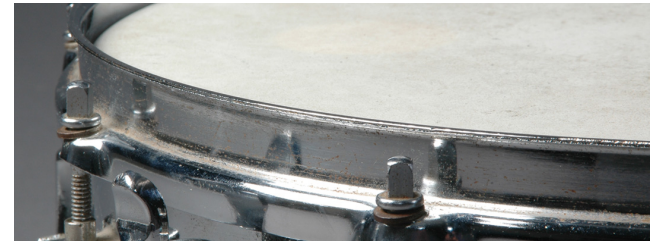
- *OPUS* – annual IMSS showcase concert at Perth Concert Hall
- Chamber and ensemble festivals
- Workshops
- Master-classes and recitals
- School assemblies



## WHAT DOES IT COST?

(1/4)

- Tuition is funded by the Department of Education.
- A student journal is provided free of charge each year.
- Guitars, violins, violas and basic percussion equipment are to be self-provided.
- Other instruments may be self-provided (recommended) or loaned through the Department's instrument loan service for the first year (cello: 2 years, double bass: ongoing).



## WHAT DOES IT COST?

(2/4)

- Certain instruments are loaned to schools at a fee.
- A loan agreement must be signed with the school.
- Private insurance cover is recommended.
- Tutor book, other music, accessories and music stand are to be purchased as required.





## WHAT DOES IT COST? (3/4)

Student instrument purchase prices and related information is available from your local retailer:

- Read our pamphlet *Purchasing a Musical Instrument* for general information (includes renting and buying secondhand).
- **Always** consult your child's instrumental teacher prior to purchase.

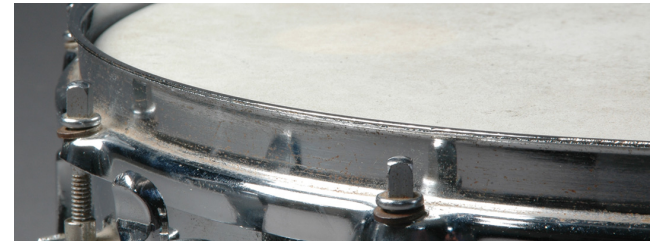
You can access our guides by scrolling down to the '**Purchasing a new instrument**' drop-down menu in the 2<sup>nd</sup> QR on the takeaway pamphlet.

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SCHOOL SERVICES

Parent Information Evening Resources

- 1) IMSS Website  
[www.education.wa.edu.au/instrumental-music](http://www.education.wa.edu.au/instrumental-music)
- 2) IMSS Instrument Purchasing Guides  
<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/instrumental-music/loaning-and-purchasing-instruments>
- 3) IMSS Parent Information Evening Survey  
<https://forms.office.com/r/6vdTPdpJfi>



## WHAT DOES IT COST?

(4/4)

There is an investment in time and effort:

- Commitment from student – regular practice, lessons, ensembles and performances.
- Commitment from parents/carers – support and encouragement, liaison with teacher, becoming ‘the taxi’, attend performances.

Lessons are scheduled by the IMSS teacher and are usually at a fixed time in primary school, and a rotating timetable in secondary school.



## FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SUCCESS

(1/3)

- Support and encourage your child through the highs and the lows.
- Make music a high priority – every lesson counts.
- Promote purposeful practice – on the evening after the lesson, and regularly.
- Promote listening to live music and recorded instrumental music as an activity.



## FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SUCCESS

(2/3)

- Provide performance opportunities to “show and tell” your child’s musical achievements.
- Use the student journal.
- Communicate with the instrumental teacher – it is a partnership!



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# FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SUCCESS

(3/3)

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## Primary music journal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Music journal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Playing time (minutes)							
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total

Set work

Comments

Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Playing time (minutes)							
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total

Set work

Comments

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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## CONNECT CLASSES – ON-LINE

- Instrumental teachers are expected to form *Connect Classes* (or similar) with their students, either across schools or within individual schools provided students and parents have access to the internet.
- This platform may provide students and parents with access to course outlines, programs, resources, assessments and relevant information for each class group.
- This doesn't replace the practice journal. It provides additional resources and information.



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# IMSS Website

education.wa.edu.au/instrumental-music

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Home Accessibility Contact

How can we help?

Go to whole of WA Government search

Education in WA Learning and support Careers Our organisation COVID-19

Learning and support > Learning programs > Instrumental music

Print Share

## Instrumental music

Student selection and commitment > Music program > Instruments and equipment > Events and key dates >

Give your child the opportunity to be part of a unique instrumental music program only available in Western Australian public schools.

One of the unique and highly regarded programs for students in public schools is the instrumental music

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*Thank you for your time this evening*



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