

Music Handbook



2027 Application Form



Sandringham
COLLEGE

School Principal Team

College Principal	Amy Porter
Senior Campus Principal	Vivienne McElwee
Junior Campus Principal	Cody Gunn

Music Department

Head of Music	Scott Hobson
Principal Team Contact	Michelle Lynch
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From the Head of Music

"Music plays a vital role in student development, offering a constructive means of self-expression and emotional growth. It also builds confidence, focus, and community by connecting them with others who share the same passion."

- Scott Hobson



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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a guide for parents and students to make the most of the music program at Sandringham College.

Sandringham College is committed to investing in the music department and its students, aiming to grow and develop the program inline with the College's core values. We invite students, parents and the community to join us in helping to build a dynamic and engaging Music Department at Sandringham.

"Music has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging students to reach their creative and expressive potential. Skills and techniques developed through participation in music learning allow students to manipulate, express and share sound as listeners, composers and performers. Music learning has a significant impact on the cognitive, affective, motor, social and personal competencies of students." - VCAA



Rationale – learning an instrument at school

Music exists distinctively in every culture and is a basic expression of human experience. Students' active participation in music fosters understanding of other times, places, cultures and contexts. Through continuous and sequential music learning, students listen to, compose and perform with increasing depth and complexity. Through performing, composing and listening to music, students have access to knowledge, skills and understanding, which can be gained in no other way. Learning in Music is aurally based and can be understood without any recourse to notation. Learning to read and write music in traditional and graphic forms enables students to access a wide range of music as independent learners.

Music has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging students to reach their creative and expressive potential. The skills and techniques developed through participation in music learning allow students to manipulate, express and share sound as listeners, composers and performers. Music learning has a significant and positive impact on students' cognitive, affective, motor, social and personal competencies.

Music learning combines listening, performing and composing activities. These activities, developed sequentially, enhance students' capacity to perceive and understand music. As students' progress in their study of Music, they learn to value and appreciate the power of music to transform the heart, soul, mind and spirit of the individual. In this way students develop an aesthetic appreciation and enjoyment of music.

Before enrolling your child, please consider the commitment required to successfully undertake this study. It requires the establishment and maintenance of a regular home practice routine and considerable parental support. Communication with the department, teachers and attendance at performances is encouraged.

Why learn an instrument at Sandringham?

There are many additional benefits that come from learning an instrument at Sandringham. These include:

- A carefully selected and appropriately qualified teacher.
- Progress which is monitored regularly by the head of the department.
- Ensemble participation at an appropriate level for the student.
- Examinations and assessments.
- Regular performance opportunities.
- Facility for inexpensively hiring an instrument.
- Regular contact with the parent via the practice journal.

Which instrument should my child learn?

Each student is at a different stage on their learning journey and brings their own strengths and perspectives to secondary school, so for each student, their preference of instrument will be different. Students should consider whether they like the sound that is produced when choosing an instrument as they'll be spending many years listening to it during practise and performance.

Sandringham College supports students to find the right instrument through the Try It Out Night and the initial enrolment form.



Try It Out Night

At Sandringham, each year in Term 3, we run a “Try It Out Night”, open to all new students enrolling at Sandringham the following year. Students have the opportunity to play every band instrument that we offer and rank the instruments indicating their preference. The staff also give students an initial aptitude score to indicate their ability to get a sound and the ease in which a student is able to ‘pick it up’. It’s a very fun night and it’s encouraged that each student comes and tries all the instruments.

Balance is always a consideration when running an Instrumental and Ensemble Music program. When students enrol, we need to make sure the ensembles are balanced with the correct number and type of instruments to cover all parts. For example, a concert band doesn’t sound very good if there are 20 saxophones and very few clarinets or brass. For this reason, we ask students to choose 3 different instruments that they would like to play when enrolling. Every effort is made to put students into their first choice of instrument, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Instruments offered at Sandringham College

- Bassoon
- Cello
- Clarinet
- Euphonium
- Flute
- French Horn
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Classical Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Oboe
- Percussion
- Piano
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Double Bass
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin
- Voice

Enrolling in Instrumental and Ensemble Music

Students need to enrol in Instrumental Music every year. This is a new system put in place to ensure all student enrolments are kept up to date and correct.

Enrolling in Instrumental Music lessons is a year-long commitment.

All students learning an instrument are required to be part of an ensemble. This allows students to progress faster, provides performance opportunities and creates a culture of teamwork and support within the school.

In Term 3, online enrolment information is sent out to parents via Compass for the following year. Parents submit applications via Microsoft Forms and pay a deposit to secure placement in the Instrumental Music and Ensemble program. Parents will be sent an email before the end of the school year notifying them of instrument allocations for the following year.

If you are enrolling at the start of the academic year, please contact the front office during Week 1 of Term 1 to check for available places in the program.



Hire of instruments

A limited number of school owned instruments are available for hire to students that are enrolling in the music program at Sandringham College.

Instruments available for hire include: bassoon, cello, clarinet, euphonium, flute, French horn, oboe, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, double bass, trumpet, tuba, viola and violin. Instruments not on this list will need to be purchased.

If you wish to hire an instrument, please indicate this on your online enrolment form. A hire contract form will be emailed to parents, which needs to be completed for each hired instrument.

Sandringham College will attempt to hire out instruments on request but cannot guarantee that there will always be rental instruments available.

Rental instruments are usually only available for one year, after which it is expected that an instrument will be purchased. The purpose of the rental program is to assist parents and students to decide on an instrument type before committing. Please contact the Head of Music to request an extension on instrument rental.

Returning a hire instrument

All hire instruments should be returned by students to their instrumental music teachers in the last week of classes for the year (Monday 1 December - Friday 5 December) during Headstart. Please note:

- Hire instruments should be cleaned carefully. This website shows easy and correct ways to clean each instrument. <https://www.wikihow.com/Category:Cleaning-Musical-Instruments>
- All accessories should be returned with the case.
- Cleaning cloths should be kept or disposed of.
- Instrument cases should be vacuumed.

Please do not leave a rental instrument in the instrument store room as instruments need to be signed back to the school.

Timetabling of instrumental lessons

Instrumental lessons are 50 minutes in length and take place once per week.

Students in Years 7 – 10 will have their instrumental lessons during class time, on a rotating basis. Lessons are taught in small groups of between 2 – 5 students. In the example timetable provided on the following page, this Year 9 student has their brass lesson on Friday. The lesson will remain on Friday each week, but the lesson time will rotate through the periods to reduce the time missed from the same class. This system is accepted across Australia as a standard and has worked well.

Students in Years 11 – 12 will have their instrumental lessons during recess, lunch or study periods whenever possible. Lessons are taught one on one to provide specific feedback and instruction on students' progress.

Please see the next page for the example timetable.



Example timetable

Today	Jump to: 09/08/2020	Go	Week	Month			
	Aug 9, 2020 9SCF ALT 1 - Inves...	Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12 HPE Term 3 Week ...	Thu 13	Fri 14 Nerve Disorders re... WEEK 5 - Listening WEEK 4 - Reading 2 Term 3 Formative ...	Sat 15
9am		9:00: 1 - 9FRE3 - C4 - PRID	9:00: 1 - 9HUSC - S9 - VOGJ	9:00: 1 - 9ELX6 - S11 - VOGJ	9:00: 1 - 9HPEC - GYM1 - CROS	9:00: 1 - 9ENSC - B1 - KERJ	
10am		9:48: 2 - 9FRE3 - C4 - PRID	9:48: 2 - 9SCSC - DCL3 - SCHI	9:48: 2 - 9ENSC - B1 - KERJ	9:48: 2 - 9HPEC - GYM1 - CROS	9:48: 2 - 9FRE3 - C4 - PRID	
11am		11:00: 3 - 9ENSC - B1 - KERJ	11:00: 3 - 9ELX6 - S11 - VOGJ	11:00: 3 - 9ENSC - B1 - KERJ	11:00: 3 - 9HUSC - S9 - VOGJ	11:00: PIANO16 - S4 - STEJ	11:00: 3 - 9MASC - S8 - HOUM
12pm		11:48: 4 - 9ENSC - B1 - KERJ	11:48: 4 - 9ELX6 - S11 - VOGJ	11:48: 4 - 9SCF2 - S6 - WILA	11:48: 4 - 9HUSC - S9 - VOGJ		11:48: 4 - 9MASC - S8 - HOUM
1pm		1:24: 5 - 9HUSC - S9 - VOGJ	1:24: 5 - 9MASC - S8 - HOUM	1:24: 5 - 9SCSC - DCL2 - SCHI	1:24: 5 - 9SCSC - DCL2 - SCHI		1:24: 5 - 9SCF2 - DCL3 - WILA
2pm		2:12: 6 - 9MASC - S8 - HOUM	2:12: 6 - 9MASC - S8 - HOUM	2:12: 6 - 9HPEC - C2 - CROS	2:12: 6 - 9SCSC - DCL2 - SCHI	2:12: 6 - 9SCF2 - DCL3 -	2:12: BRS1 - CORN_09
3pm				3:30: JRBAND - DEVL			
4pm							

Student illness and absence from instrumental lessons

At the beginning of the year, if students are new to Instrumental Music, Teachers will collect students from their timetabled classes until a routine is set. Besides this, it is the student's responsibility to attend their lesson. Because instrumental lessons are one period in length, students just need to come to the instrumental lesson and the roll will be taken as normal in Compass.

Advance notice must be given in order to reschedule a lesson. Staff can be notified by a note from home or an email to the instrumental teacher and Head of Music (contact details can be found in the music staff section). Please be aware that staff will make every effort to reschedule the Instrumental lesson throughout the term.

The instrumental teacher must be notified of any upcoming absence. If students have missed an instrumental lesson because of a test or excursion they must still see a member of the music staff on the day of their lesson. Students can also use their initiative and swap lessons with a peer if they have discussed it with the instrumental teacher.

On the second lesson missed, parents/guardians will receive an email from the school regarding the student's attendance.

Practice routine and duration of instrumental lessons

The more you practise, the better you will be on your instrument. It is generally recommended that students in lower school practice 20 - 30 minutes a day, and students in upper school should practise up to one hour.

If this seems like a lot of time on top of homework, consider how many hours a week students play games or watch TV. If you think about the skills and holistic benefits that come from playing an instrument, it's definitely worth the investment!

A good practice routine involves:

- Warmup - like an athlete, all musicians need to warmup their muscles before a practice session.
- Technical work (scales, long tones, technique exercises).
- Pieces.
- Something fun (it's always good to end your practice with a success or a piece of music you enjoy).

Students are expected to maintain an appropriate standard on their instrument and should come prepared for each instrumental lesson and ensemble rehearsal.

Fees for tuition

Instrumental Music (IM) and Ensemble Music (EM) enrolment options	Annual Fee
Individual Instrumental Music Lessons and Ensemble Rehearsals (VCE Music students) (By request only for all other Year 7 – 12 students)	\$1200
Group Instrumental Music Lessons and Ensemble Rehearsals (Year 7 – 12 students)	\$850
Ensemble Only: For students learning an instrument outside of school	\$250
Second Instrument: Instrumental Music Lessons (Group or Individual) and Ensemble Rehearsals	\$850 / \$1200
Instrument Hire: Please read the Hire Instruments section in this handbook for a list of available instruments *Hire fee includes annual servicing	\$350

This is an annual cost paid in advance each year, not a per-lesson fee. Payment of IM and EM costs cover specialist staff costs for lessons and ensemble direction. Included are component costs for photocopying of music, purchase of ensemble music and maintenance of instruments.

Students in Years 7 - 12 may request individual lessons based on their ability, subject to the approval of the Head of Music. Students studying VCE Music are required to undertake individual lessons as part of the subject.

Termination of lessons

An email from parents to the Head of Music must accompany any request for the cessation of study, however, at the time of enrolment it is an annual commitment. Instrumental lesson costs are non-refundable, paid in advance or in four instalments in Term 1 and are required for the year. This is due to the program needing to employ specialist music staff on a time fraction for the entire year.

Students studying two instruments must

Start of year procedure

Instrumental and voice lessons will begin in Term 1, Week 2. Lessons are scheduled in Compass a term in advance.

Ongoing Ensembles will begin in Term 1, Week 3. Ensembles are scheduled in Compass and will show up on a student's timetable the week prior.

Students in Year 7 and other beginner students will be allocated to ensembles when they are comfortable on their instruments. This is usually Term 1, Week 7. Woodwind, Brass and Percussion will join Beginner Band.



Ensemble list

Ensemble	Day	Time	Campus /Room	Director
Beginner Band	Monday	Period 0 7.40 - 8.30	Holloway Campus HPC	Mira Stephens
Junior Guitar Ensemble	Monday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Ben Dewhirst
Middle Jazz Funk Band	Monday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Seb Vargas
Saxophone Quartet	Tuesday	Period 0 7.40 - 8.30	Holloway Campus HPC	Mira Stephens
Concert Band	Tuesday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Paul Dunn
Percussion Ensemble	Wednesday	Period 0 7.40 - 8.30	Holloway Campus HPC	Timothy Phillips
Stage Band	Wednesday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Paul Dunn
Senior String Ensemble	Wednesday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Alan Lam
Senior Jazz Funk Band	Thursday	Period 0 7.40 - 8.30	Holloway Campus HPC	Scott Hobson
Junior School Choir	Thursday	Period 0 7.40 - 8.30	Holloway Campus HPC	Katharine Parton
Senior Guitar Ensemble	Thursday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Ben Dewhirst
Beginner String Ensemble	Thursday	Period 7 3:15 - 4:05	Bluff Campus BN10	Alan Lam
Senior School Choir	Friday	Period 0 7:40-8:30	Holloway Campus HPC	Katharine Parton
Contemporary Band	Friday	Period 7 3:15-4:05	Holloway Campus HPC	Ben Dewhirst



Concert and performance program

The concert and performance program is timetabled based on staff and room availability as early as possible. An updated version of the program schedule is sent out prior to the academic year with correct details.

What parents can do to help

Without parent support, students find it much harder to succeed when learning an instrument. Instrumental teachers are able to teach and demonstrate concepts while face to face but it is up to students to practice these techniques and be ready to move on in the following lessons. It is, therefore, important that you give your child time to practice by establishing a regular practice routine. While there is no 'upper limit' to practice time, as a general guide a student starting an instrument should practice between 20 and 30 minutes a day. Frequent small amounts of practice with full concentration are of much greater benefit than great long practice sessions the night before the next lesson.

Hints on taking the pain out of practice:

- Establish a regular practice routine of one or two sessions per day. With beginners and young children it is usually best to supervise the practice in the first semester and ensure that everything in the record book is worked through.
- Where practical, throughout the week, try not to put the instrument away in its case. Most instruments can be quite safely left assembled providing that younger siblings are not playing football in the same room!
- Be encouraging. Even if the sound being made is not always music as you know it. Playing an instrument takes years but the journey is important.
- To play an instrument effectively, a good posture is essential. Please purchase a music stand at the earliest opportunity.
- Please make sure that you check the IM Practise

journal once a week and feel free to write in the book. It is an easy way to communicate with the IM teacher and will assist you in making sure that your child practices all the required work instead of just the bits they happen to like best. Please communicate with teachers early if you have any concerns at all; a small problem can be resolved easily but a large problem is more difficult to fix. If you feel you need to talk with other members of the music staff concerning your child's progress, please contact the Head of Music sooner rather than later.

- Please help to make sure that your child gets to rehearsals (especially morning ones) in plenty of time.
- We encourage you to attend your child's performances and feel welcome to invite friends and relatives. The encouragement and motivation this gives to a child is huge! Performance nights are often what students remember years after school is over.
- Due to the multiple campuses, music notices are only distributed on Compass and Microsoft Teams. Parents and students are encouraged to have push notifications and emails on their device, turned on. Please check this frequently for rehearsal schedules and concert information.

Music staff

Classroom Teacher

Scott Hobson
Timothy Clifton

Role

Head of Music
Music Teacher

Contact

Scott.Hobson@education.vic.gov.au
Timothy.Clifton@education.vic.gov.au

Instrumental Teacher

Days

Instrument

Contact

Ben Dewhirst

M T W T F

Guitar

Ben.Dewhirst@education.vic.gov.au

Mira Stephens

M T W T F

Woodwind

Mira.Stephens@education.vic.gov.au

Katharine Parton

M T W T F

Voice

Katharine.Parton@education.vic.gov.au

Seb Vargas

M T W T F

Percussion

Sebastian.Vargas@education.vic.gov.au

Caleb Paine

M T W T F

Piano

Caleb.Paine@education.vic.gov.au

Paul Dunn

M T W T F

Brass

Paul.Dunn@education.vic.gov.au

Alan Lam

M T W T F

Strings

Alan.Lam@education.vic.gov.au

Timothy Phillips

M T W T F

Percussion

Timothy.Phillips4@education.vic.gov.au



Security and care of instruments

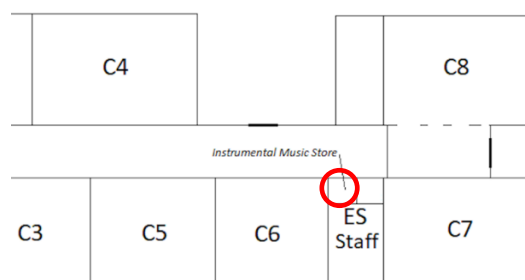
On instrumental lesson and ensemble rehearsal days, students will need to leave their instruments in the secure instrument storeroom on each campus. Students should not use their personal lockers or carry their instruments around all day. Only instrumental music students have access to the secure instrument storeroom via their student cards.

DET insurance does not cover private instruments while on school grounds or during excursions and performances. It is important, therefore, to make sure that your child's instrument is properly insured, and that the instrument is left in the appropriate places as directed by the Head of Music. It is also sensible not to leave instruments at school for unnecessarily long periods of time (holidays).

DET insurance only covers Sandringham hire instruments while on school property. It is recommended that parents take out insurance that will cover the loss or destruction of the instrument during transit and use at home.

Secure Instrument Storerooms are located on each campus:

Bluff Rd campus secure instrument storeroom



Music performance uniform

All Music students are required to wear the full school uniform including blazer when representing Sandringham during performances. This includes black dress shoes and black socks or stockings. Please no sneakers. Hair must be tied back with black accessories and all jewellery removed for performances.



VCE Music

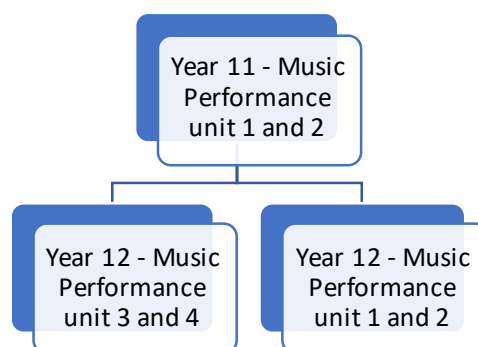
“VCE Music is based on active engagement in, and considered response to, all aspects of music. Students develop and refine musicianship skills and critical awareness of their relationship with music as listener, performer, composer, consumer and user of music technologies. They study music styles and genres from diverse cultures, times and locations and analyse and evaluate live and recorded performances and learn to incorporate, adapt and interpret musical elements and ideas from the work of leading practitioners. Through studying and practising ways of effectively communicating and expressing musical ideas to an audience as performer and/or composer, students develop competence in the use of digital music technologies and equipment as creative tools, broadening their versatility as music practitioners.” – VCAA website

Sandringham College offers the following VCE Music units:

VCE Music entry recommendations

VCE Music students must be enrolled in Instrumental Music lessons, either at Sandringham College or privately.

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4. Music Performance Units 1-4, Music Investigation Units 3-4, are designed to a standard, equivalent to the final two years of secondary education. All VCE studies are benchmarked against comparable national and international curriculum. At least four to five years experience in learning an instrument/s is recommended before commencing VCE Music Performance and Music Investigation.





Sandringham College

7 - 8 Campus

356 Bluff Rd, Sandringham, VIC 3191

9 - 12 Campus

11 Holloway Rd, Sandringham, VIC 3191

Enquiries and admissions (03) 8599 0500
or visit sandringhamsc.vic.edu.au



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