

**Carlingford Public School**

**Music Band**

**Handbook**



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# Carlingford Public School

## Music Band Handbook



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## Executive Summary

At Carlingford Public School we have wonderful Music Band opportunities for the students from year 3 - 6. The band is run by Key Music Australia in partnership with P&C Band Committee.

We have three bands Training band, Concert band and Performance band ensembles with performance opportunities ranging from school assemblies to Eisteddfods, North Shore Symphony Wind Ensemble (NSSWE) held at the concourse at Chatswood, Easter hat parade, Open day, Presentation Day, Christmas concerts.

We encourage you to get involved through various roles available in band committee. Importantly, learning an instrument in the primary school years can cement a life-long love of music. As well, belonging to the school band gives children an enriched learning environment in which to grasp skills in self-discipline, teamwork, leadership, and performance. You may also know that musical accomplishment is well correlated with success in many other areas, right throughout life. Finally, experience in our primary school band program will prepare your child for success in later high school ensemble years.

With more children in the three bands, we not only achieve a fuller orchestral sound, but we can also provide affordable music and performance opportunities for our children through instrument hire, shared conductor fees in the camps, shared performance transport.

Importantly, volunteer parents are instrumental in the success of this program!

We hope to inspire continued strong participation in the instrumental and band program at every level in the school, and we hope that the information contained herein will field and clarify some of the inevitable questions that may crop up.

We wish you very happy music making!

## The Bands

All the three bands the Training Band, the Concert Band and the Performance Band are run by Key Music Australia, the band rehearsals for each band is held once a week before school from 8:00 – 9:00am.

### Training Band

There is no musical prerequisite for this band. Rather, the Training Band is for children in Years 3-6 who have never played before, and who are just commencing in their musical careers.

Many children start with the Training Band at the beginning of Year 3.



Older children commencing on their chosen instrument are strongly encouraged to join the Training Band and should not feel that this is a band for juniors. Older children make particularly good leaders in the training band and may be able to give the Training Band a fuller sound.

Joining the Training Band at the beginning of the year is strongly encouraged as it means that children receive important early groundwork in band protocol. However, if you have extenuating circumstances, and you feel that a child has become ready for the challenge later in the band year, late entry may be provided at the music committee and conductor's discretion. Children are encouraged to complete their entire first year with the Training Band.

### Concert Band and Performance Band

The Concert Band and Performance Band provides band progression through an elevated level of ensemble and performance opportunity. In general children enter the Concert Band and Performance Band through the Training Band after promotion by the Training Band conductor.

A great deal of children commences with the Concert Band in around Year 4 and Performance Band in around Year 5. It is possible, however, for both earlier and later merit entry to be awarded, depending on the motivations of the child, and at the conductors' discretion. If necessary, an audition may be arranged for entry into Concert Band and Performance Band.

All the three bands can include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone, amongst other instruments at the conductor's discretion.

Please note that places in the bands for piano and Percussion instruments are limited.

### Instrument Hire

The P&C Band Committee manages the hire and servicing of the band instruments including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. Instruments are allocated based on student preference, student aptitude, and the instrumental needs of the band.

Instrument hire requires

Refundable bond deposit \$100;

Hiring fee of \$120 (2 terms payable upfront, \$60 per term thereafter).

Total to be paid upfront to hire the instrument is \$220.

If you embark on instrument hire, you will need to repair or replace the hired instrument at your own cost and you will need to show your service/purchase receipts to be eligible for the bond refund at the end of your hire period.

Key Music Australia services the instruments during the December school holidays. Parents will need to make enquiries through the P&C Band Committee instrument hire coordinator and pay for the service up front if they wish to be a part of this.



Note that you may choose to buy your own instrument, or even hire one from a company such as Carlingford Music Centre.

### Performance Opportunities

There are numerous performance opportunities to stretch and encourage the bands and each band has its own annual performance schedule which currently includes the following:

- Band-led assembly performances twice a year
- Open Day demonstrations during Education Week in August
- Easter Hat Parade
- Presentation Day

In addition, the Performance Band enters the annual Ryde Eisteddfod primary school challenge which is generally held in August. North Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble (NSSWE) Spring Festival at the Concourse in Chatswood which is generally held in September.

Note that for children with exceptional talent, parents are encouraged to make enquiries regarding individual performance opportunities at the Ryde Eisteddfod.

Note also that parental help is much needed with transport to the performance opportunities provided by the P&C Band Committee and Key Music Australia.

### Band Camp and Band Workshop

An annual weekend band workshop is held on a Sunday morning from 9:00am – 3:00pm at school, depending on student numbers. Conductors and Tutors from KMA come in and work with the children in small groups in a novel and inspiring format, and children participate in a concert for their parents at the end of the workshop. The cost for the workshop is approximately \$70 per student however the price can vary depending on tutoring expenses. With greater participation we can make the workshop a most enjoyable and economical experience for families.

The band camp is another exciting event that is proposed to be conducted from 2023. The camp is run by the Crusaders' staff, KMA staff and P&C band committee and parent volunteers. All the three bands stay at the Crusaders in Galston from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Key Music Australia conductors and tutors work with the students over the weekend and conclude the camp by performing for the families on Sunday afternoon. These events cannot take place without the parent volunteers. It is a great opportunity for the parents to get involved in the school community.

### Band Requirements

#### Parent and Child Commitment

Key Music Australia offers private and semi-private lessons for many instruments. Please note that



it is a requirement for band students to learn their instruments outside school hours, arrange for private or semi-private lessons with Key Music Australia or with your own private tutor on their chosen instrument in tandem with their band training.





In addition to this, parents need to support their children in music practice; punctuality to band practices; musical commitment, enthusiasm, and contribution; and occasional transport to external performances.

### Please, encourage your friends!

The Band program is a great way to get involved in school and make like-minded friends. Each band needs at least 20-25 students per year, not only to achieve the full band sound, but also to manage the financial obligations pertaining to ensemble and performance conductor fees. 30-35 children per band would be more ideal.

We therefore strongly encourage parents and children at the school to get involved in the bands, and to talk to their friends and siblings about getting involved. All the three bands represent a terrific community-led learning opportunity, conveniently located, right here on school premises.

### Practice Times and Location

Band rehearsals are held by Key Music Australia one morning a week for each band in the school hall. Currently (2022) the practice schedule for the band groups is as follows:

Training Band	Friday 8:00am - 9:00am
Concert Band	Tuesday 8:00am – 9:00am
Performance Band	Wednesday 8:00am - 9:00am

Students are requested to arrive at 7:50am to assist with the setting up of the music stands, seats and other equipment needed for practice.

### Band Fees

Fees for all the bands are the same. Currently (2022) the fee for the band rehearsals is \$70 per term to be paid to Key Music Australia. These fees cover conductor costs for practice sessions and performance opportunities. From time-to-time minimal additional transport fees may be required.

### Parent Info Session

For the students who are enrolled in Training band a parent info session is held at the start of the year, this is to explain how band is run and what is involved in the band program.

### The Performing Arts Unit (PAU)

The NSW Department of Educating and Communities (formerly DET – education and training) has a sizeable Performing Arts Unit (PAU) which runs music ensemble groups, state music camps, and music festivals. Families are encouraged to make their own enquiries regarding these opportunities. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/>





and

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/music/music>

## Contacts

P&C Band Coordinator: [cpspcbandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:cpspcbandcoordinator@gmail.com)

Key Music Australia: [office@keymusicaustralia.com.au](mailto:office@keymusicaustralia.com.au)

P&C Instrument Hire Coordinator: [cpspcinstrumenthire@gmail.com](mailto:cpspcinstrumenthire@gmail.com)

## Conclusion

Music is a strong part of the performing arts culture at Carlingford Public School, and we encourage you to get involved. Children benefit not only from personal growth with competence in their chosen instrument, and in belonging to the music program, but also in immeasurable other ways above and beyond the music itself.

Please don't hesitate to contact the P&C Band Committee to help get you started.

## Document Change History

V01	Thursday, 27 June 2013	First Draft for comment
V02	Friday, 2 August 2013	Updated with Teacher Feedback
V03	Monday, 5 August 2013	Separated out contacts to make document Internet-ready
V04	Thursday, 15 September 2022	Updated by band coordinator (2022)

