

Carlingford Public School

Music Band

Handbook



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Music Band Handbook



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Executive Summary

At Carlingford we have wonderful Music Band opportunities run by volunteer parents through the P&C Band Committee.

We have both Training and Performance band ensembles with performance opportunities ranging from school assemblies and nursing home performances to Eisteddfods, Christmas concerts and at times even regional inter-school competitions.

We encourage you to get involved. 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.

Our band program is self-funded and many hands make light work. With more children in the training and performance 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, shared performance transport, and in some cases even shared instrument repair.

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

There are two bands, the Training Band and the Performance Band. Both bands have their own professional paid conductor, each of whom comes to the school and supports the band in ensemble and performance work.

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. Exceptional children in earlier school years with sufficient maturity and concentration may commence earlier. If unsure, the band conductor may be able to observe your child's readiness, and assist with your commencement decision.



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.

The Training Band commences its annual program in February.

In 2013, the Training Band has been working with the "Essential Elements 2000 Plus – Book 1" band method book.

Performance Band

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

A great deal of children commence with the Performance Band in around Year 4. 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 the Performance Band.

The Performance Band 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, drums and guitar are limited.

Instrument Hire

The P&C Music Committee manages the hire and servicing of a small selection of 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 a refundable \$50 bond, and a \$40 per term fee.

If you embark on instrument hire, you will need to service your hired instrument annually at your own cost (normally approx \$70 - \$150), and you will need to show your annual service receipts if you wish to be eligible for the bond refund at the end of your hire period.

The P&C music committee is able to arrange the bulk servicing of some instruments during the September 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.



Please note that instrument servicing remains the responsibility of the person who has hired the instrument.

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 performance in Term 2
- Open Day demonstrations during Education Week in August
- Aged Care Performance with 2 separate outings per band in approx November
- Presentation Night in December

In addition, the Performance Band enters the annual Ryde Eisteddfod primary school challenge which is generally held in August.

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 volunteer-led P&C Band Committee.

Music Camp and Band Workshop

An annual one-day music camp is held on a Sunday morning from 9:00am – 3:00pm, depending on student numbers. Conductors and Tutors are hired to 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 camp.

In 2013, the proposed cost of the camp is \$50, however the price can vary depending on tutoring expenses. With greater participation we are able to make this camp a most enjoyable and economical experience for families.

Band Requirements

Parent and Child Commitment

The band offers numerous opportunities for laughter and learning. However, please note that it is a requirement for band membership that children continue in out-of-school-hours private lessons 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 shared occasional transport to external performances.

Please, encourage your friends!

The music committee has found in recent years that each band has commenced with approx 10-12 children in February, only to lose 2-3 children through the year due to changed circumstances. Each band needs at least 8-10 children per year, not only to achieve the full band sound, but also to manage the financial obligations pertaining to ensemble and performance conductor fees. 20 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. Both Bands represent a terrific community-led learning opportunity, conveniently located, right here on school premises.

Practice Times and Location

Band practice is generally held one morning a week in the school hall. Currently (June 2013) the practice schedule is as follows:

Performance Band	Tuesday 8:00am - 9:00am
Training Band	Thursday 8:00am - 9:00am

Students are requested to arrive at 7:45am to assist with the setting up of the music stands, seats and other equipment needed for practice.

Band Fees

Fees for both bands are the same. Annual fees are made up of a refundable \$20 deposit in the year prior, a music score / band book fee for the training band, and term fees of \$50 per term for the 4 terms in the school year. These fees cover conductor costs for practice sessions and performance opportunities. From time to time minimal additional transport fees may be required.

A copy of the Training Band Registration Form is provided at the end of this handbook.

Band Information Evening

An Annual Band Information Evening is held in November each year, and information is provided to children and parents about what is involved and how to get started. During this evening, different instruments are demonstrated by tutors and band members, and children can try out the instruments that most interest them.

After the information evening, and prior to the end of the school year, parents are invited to secure a position in the band with a small bond. In 2012-2013 the bond was \$20. This allows the music committee to plan financially for conductor hire for the following band year. There may also be an



opportunity to purchase the Training Band “Essential Elements 2000 Plus – Book 1” band method book.

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>

Choir

Carlingford also has two school choirs. There is a regular school choir, and a Christmas choir that performs at year-end at the Epping Club.

Contacts

Please refer to a separate sheet available in the school office with the contact details of the P&C Music Band Committee, and a tutor contact list.

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.



Training Band Registration Form - 2013

Please hand this note in to school office with payment.

I would like to join training band in 2013.

Name: _____

Class: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Parents' name: _____

Email Address: _____

Instrument: 1st Preference: _____ 2nd Preference: _____

I am beginning to learn my instrument, or

I have been learning for _____

—

I already own / am buying an instrument, or

I would like to hire a school instrument (subject to availability), or

I will hire an instrument privately

—

I will arrange my music lessons privately, or

I would like lessons at school before/after school hours, or

I would like lessons at school during school hours

—

I would like to order a copy of Essential Elements 2000 Plus Book 1

at a cost of __\$13.45 for flute / sax / trumpet / trombone) or __ \$28.75 for drums, or

I will arrange my own copy

I have included \$20 deposit for the book.

