Expression of Interest in the Department of Education Instrumental Music Program

Dear Parents / Guardians

Your child's current Primary School is included in the Department of Education's Instrumental Music Tuition Scheme. Your child is in a year group currently being considered for tuition in a selective program with limited vacancies. It is important that both you and your child, fully understand the commitment, before deciding to indicate interest in being considered.

Instrumental music skills do not bloom overnight! They are built carefully and steadily over a number of years, and success in the program requires sustained commitment by both children and parents.

It is expected that students who are offered a position are prepared to consider commitment until at least the end of Year 10, and will plan to continue music studies at a secondary school that offers the instrumental music program for their instrument. In many cases, the instrumental teachers in primary schools also teach in the area secondary school, ensuring continuity of instruction.

Please note that every endeavour is made to provide ongoing tuition at your local secondary school but it may not be possible for all instruments or all students. If your school has a local-intake area and your usual place of residence is within that area, your children are automatically accepted into that school. If you reside outside the local-intake area enrolment is not guaranteed. Local-intake area information for each school can be found by accessing this website: http://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do. Please check with your instrumental teacher if the instrument on offer is available at the secondary school in your local-intake area.

Students are given weekly lessons in small groups by a qualified teacher / musician employed through the Department of Education's Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS). There is no charge for tuition, which is conservatively valued at $1,500 per annum. In order to make progress, daily home practice is also essential. Parents have a vitally important and active role to play in encouraging their child to make this commitment. As the child progresses, practice time will increase. When ready, they will be expected to participate in an instrumental ensemble that rehearses out of school hours and undertakes performances in the school and community, often also out of school hours.

Students of violin, classical guitar and percussion are required to supply their own instruments at the commencement of tuition. Parents of students playing other instruments are encouraged to obtain their child's own instrument right from the start of tuition as this is a sound financial decision for those who can afford it, saving a significant amount of the purchase price in the longer term. It is strongly recommended that you wait until you have been given advice by instrumental teachers on appropriate instruments before purchasing.

Loan of Department owned flutes, clarinets, trumpets and trombones are available (on request through your child's school) for the first year, if required. Cellos are available for two years and baritones and double basses are available for the duration of participation. Parents are required to pay a non-refundable instrumental charge of **$130** to the School **before** taking possession of a Department-owned instrument. This amount covers depreciation, routine maintenance and repairs. It does not cover willful damage, negligence or loss, for which parents will generally be held liable.

The conditions are highlighted in the **Instrumental Loan Agreement** that the **School** will request parents sign. At the end of the designated loan period, parents will need to either purchase or privately hire a suitable instrument.

The School Council may also set a charge for school expenditure on instrumental music on your child's behalf. Full details of the instrumental loan and school charges are available from the School.

A music stand for home practice is required and certain instrumental accessories may need to be purchased upon request by the teacher. An instrumental student journal will be provided free of charge each year, but tutor books and other music must also be purchased by parents. Purchase of music stand, accessories and books could be expected to cost around $100 in the first year.

Final selection of students will be made by the school in consultation with instrumental teachers. Selected students will receive a formal letter of offer.

Selection criteria are:

- student interest in learning the instrument offered;
- parental commitment and support;
- musical ability as demonstrated in class music lessons;
- general ability in class, consistency of school work, attitude towards homework;
- physical suitability for the instrument on offer; and performance results on a musical aptitude indicator.

A district-wide meeting of the parents of children who receive an offer will be held. Parents will be sent details from the school prior to this meeting and will have the opportunity to meet the instrumental music teachers and ask any questions they may have. It will ensure that they fully understand both what is offered and the commitment that they and their child will be making before final acceptance.

If you wish for your child to be considered for selection in the Instrumental Music Program, please complete the expression of interest attached and return it to your child's school.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Fraser
Principal
Instrumental Music School Services

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Student Name: _____ **Year**:_____

☐ I would like my child to be considered for Instrumental Music Tuition on:

_____

_____

_____

_____

(School to list Instruments on offer here.)

OR

☐ Sorry, we are not interested in selection at this time.

If you indicated interest, please complete the following:

1. **Extracurricular activities and approximate time per week** (eg: sport, ballet, gymnastics, private music lessons).

_____

_____

_____

2. **Is there any other information you would like to add to assist us in making a selection?**

_____

_____

_____

Parent / Guardian signature: _____

Phone contact: _____ **Date**: _____

Please direct ALL queries regarding your child's possible involvement in the Program to the Principal or Teacher-in-charge of Music at your child's School