

MacKillop Catholic College 2025 Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme Information Booklet – Please keep this for your records

Thank you for your interest in enrolment on MacKillop Catholic College Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme.

We are thrilled to have this opportunity to work alongside you and your child/ren and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership and community involvement.

Before you fill in your contract and hire agreement, please read this introductory letter to help you better understand the ethos of our department, with community and holistic involvement at the centre of all that we do.

Thank you again for your interest, I look forward to meeting you at one of our many community concerts and engagements.

About our Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme

Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme – Secondary (Years 7 – 12)

By the time students are in secondary school, many of them are continuing their instrumental music lessons, performing with ensembles, singing in choirs, and taking part in the many concerts and festivals offered to them as part of their musical journey.

Lessons are offered on the following instruments and will be in groups, *unless*: students are outside the ability level of their peers, or they perform on an unusual instrument.

- **Strings** - Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
 - **Woodwind** - Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone
 - **Brass** - Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba
 - **Guitar** - Guitar – Acoustic, Electric, Bass
 - **Percussion** – includes tuned and untuned percussion and drum kit (we do not teach drum kit as a standalone course)
 - **Piano**
 - **Voice** – Vocal lessons, including all genre
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- ✓ Students will be expected (where possible) to purchase their own instrument once they pass 2 years of learning.
 - ✓ We offer a holistic musical education; we do not offer individual private-style lessons. All students who participate in our programme (receive lessons in college) must partake in the choir and ensembles.

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MacKillop Catholic College 2025 Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme

Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme – Primary (Years 3 – 6)

The instruments offered in Secondary years, are also offered from year 3 (depending on the size of the student). We are happy to discuss the best instrument choice for your child to give them the best start on their music journey.

The instrumental teachers at MacKillop Catholic College are musicians in their own fields, as well as experienced educators. We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Instrument Hire

The College has many instruments available for hire:

- Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone
- Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone (Euphonium), Tuba
- We do not hire piano, percussion or guitar

Instrumental / Vocal Lesson Times

Instrumental Lessons for our students Years 3 – 6, are generally scheduled between 8.30 am and 2.50 pm on a rotating basis. Lessons last for 30 minutes. A rotating timetable means that students have a different lesson time each week. This ensures they do not miss the same class repeatedly. This is the College policy, so please do not ask for this to be changed. Extracurricular groups and senior student tutorials run before school, at lunch and after school.

It is assumed that lessons will continue from year to year, so you do not need to re-apply for lessons again at the end of a college year. By the same token, we expect that you will be continuing in the following year.

Classroom Music/Arts and Instrumental Music for Prep – 2

- **Students in Prep** already receive classroom specialist lessons in Dance, Drama, Music, and Dance as part of their curriculum.
- **Students in Year 1** receive the above, plus are invited to join our Years 1 - 3 choir, Mini Mac, at lunch time.
- **Students in Year 2** receive the above, plus are invited to receive group violin taster sessions throughout the year.
- **Students in Year 3** receive the above, but the violin programme is replaced by an orchestral taster session – Trumpet/Flute/Clarinet. We do not offer percussion, voice as part of this taster programme.

The importance of home practice

MacKillop Catholic College **2025 Instrumental / Vocal Music Programme**

Sometimes we forget that music is an art form. Mastering new skills takes time and practice. The best progress when starting out is made when children practice for a short time each day.

Every child who embarks on the Instrumental Music Programme has a Purple Book in which the teacher writes the practice instructions for the week. Parents should sign this book each week to confirm that their child has completed their practice.

A Guide to Good Practise:

Be organised. Arrive on time for your lesson and make sure you have your music and instrument with you.

- Listen to your teacher and practise the things you work on in your lesson.
- Follow your teacher's instructions in your Purple Book.
- Practise makes perfect: regular home practise will help you to make the best possible progress and will increase enjoyment and fun in making music.

Fees for Instrumental Lessons

- Students should commit to a year of lessons; this gives your child a good opportunity to progress and give it a good go.
- Instrumental Lessons last for 30 minutes.
- Fees as below:
 - Individual (Year 11/12 students and unusual instruments only) approximately 8 lessons per term: – \$250
 - Group Tuition – up to 4 students in a group, \$150

Instrumental Hire

The following musical instruments are available to hire from the College:

- Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone
- Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Instrument hire forms are available from Administration to Head of Performing Arts – bstein1@cns.catholic.edu.au

Hire fees are charged to your college fees.

Please note that guitars can be purchased for approximately \$100; therefore, it is not worth the hire fee.

After 2 years of a student hiring an instrument from our college, it is advisable and encouraged that you purchase your own instrument. This has been shown to be a great motivator for progress.

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Lesson and hire charges are subject to change.

Labels

Hired instruments must be labelled with the student's name and have the plastic card with the College logo. Labels will be issued once a child begins their lessons / hires an instrument with us.

Repairs and Damage

If an instrument is damaged, please do not try to repair it yourself. Bring it to the Administration Office where our specialist teachers can assess the damage. Maintenance costs are met by the College, but parents are responsible for the cost of any damage to college instruments. Please read the Instrument Hire form carefully before signing it to see which costs you are responsible for.

Ensembles

There are many opportunities to participate in the musical life of the College through ensembles, concerts, group lessons, choirs and specialist music groups. When a student reaches a satisfactory standard on the instrument they learn, they are expected to take part in a group. All ensembles are graded, and the music graded within ensembles for the individual. Students will be performing at a level that is suitable for their ability.

Places in more advanced ensembles are determined by the Head of Performing Arts and the Specialist teacher in charge of that ensemble. Students who learn an instrument outside of college are welcome to audition. Places in ensembles are offered with the understanding that a year's commitment is expected from all students, whether they learn in or outside of college.

Music Ensembles at MacKillop Catholic College (2025)

- Mini Mac Choir – Year 1-3 (prep are invited after semester one, for semester two only)
- Kensington Choir – Year 3-6
- Penola Choir – Year 7-12
- Training Strings – Year 3-6
- String Ensemble – Year 7-12
- Primary Band – Year 3-6
- Concert Band – Year 7-12 (exceptional circumstances, year 6 invite only)

Commitment to Ensembles

Morning rehearsals generally begin at 7.40 am and afternoon rehearsals at 3.00 pm. Students should arrive prior to the start time to unpack, set-up and tune. Afternoon sessions generally finish before 4.30pm.

There are lunchtime rehearsals where students eat their lunch early so that they can make their rehearsals on time.

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Procedures for Missed Lessons and Rehearsals

Missed Lessons:

Teachers will aim to provide 8 lessons per term. This gives teachers a buffer for missed lessons - due to teacher or college disruptions - to be made up at the end of the term, or the following term. If your child misses a lesson due to forgetting, this will be counted as lesson having been given. It is

important that your child knows the time of their lesson and has a watch / alarm to remind them 5 minutes prior.

If your child is sick, 24 hours' notice is required for the teacher to re-arrange the lesson time and find an alternative for your lesson. We will do our best in extenuating circumstances to make up lessons that are missed. Please email – Administration to Head of Performing Arts - bstein1@cns.catholic.edu.au

Missed Rehearsals

If your child is unable to attend rehearsals before, during or after school, please email Administration to Head of Performing Arts -mcc.performingarts@cns.catholic.edu.au This is essential, especially if the rehearsal is before or after school.

Discontinuing Lessons

Discontinuation Forms are available from the Administration Office. Before you submit a discontinuation form, please email or speak with your child's instrumental music teacher.

We require 5 weeks' notice before the end of the term for the discontinuation of instrumental lessons. If your child is discontinuing lessons at the end of a year, written notice may be given at any time before the end of Term 4.

Applications

*If you would like your child to learn a musical instrument at college, either complete the parent slip sent to you at the start of the year, or alternatively, please fill out the **expression of interest form (Instrumental/vocal lessons at MacKillop)**, copies of this can be found on the college website.*

Once we have received your completed form/s, then the following process begins:

- *Contract is dated and student is added to the waiting list*
- *Once a space becomes available, your child will be sent for to meet with one of our specialist teachers to determine suitability to that choice of instrument*
- *If suitable, you will be notified of the start date for your first lesson*



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- *At the first lesson, the hire instrument will be allocated to your child along with a practice diary and music folder*
- *If your child is not suited to the instrument of choice, another instrument will be offered in discussion with parents and guardians – the above process then applies*

For enquiries, please phone the Arts Department - Performing Arts Administration – 07 4081 7600 or email at mcc.performingarts@cns.catholic.edu.au