



## INTRODUCTION TO THE LINDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIOR BAND

The Lindfield Public School (“LPS”) Band Program was formally established in 1979 and has built an enviable reputation for musical excellence. The success of the Band Program is largely due to the ability of the School, the Conductors and the parents working together to provide an environment that emphasises four important things for the children: commitment, dedication, musical achievement and fun.

Our bands have performed at various school events (school assemblies, Open Day and Presentation Day), community events, Music Festivals (held on weekends such as UNSW Band Festival and North Shore Band Festival). They also participate in our annual offsite Music Camp and end of year Music Spectacular.

The band program is run solely by parent volunteers as a sub-committee of the P&C. Parent volunteers take on various roles including Band Reps, Instrument Co-ordinator, Tutorial Co-ordinator, Music Camp Co-ordinator, Treasurer/Finance, Communications, and Admin roles.

Qualified conductors lead the band rehearsals and qualified instrument tutors provide lessons on the school premises.

All students from Years 3 – 6 are invited to join the Band Program. Through music, children can find a way to channel their energy and ability into something purposeful and creative. Parents tell us the program has increased confidence, boosted school spirit, helped children make new friends and discover a new talent.

This handbook provides an overview of the LPS Band Program. If you have questions, please contact the Band Convenors at [band@lpsbandc.org.au](mailto:band@lpsbandc.org.au).

We look forward to helping your child begin their musical journey in Junior Band.

*LPS Band Committee*

### ABOUT JUNIOR BAND

The Junior Band is our beginner ensemble.

Joining the Junior Band is the best way to learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument in a fun, positive and rewarding ensemble. The Junior Band is open to all beginners and no musical experience needed!

The instruments available in the band ensemble are flute, clarinet, saxophones, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba and percussion.

Commitment is key to learning an instrument. The Junior Band is a year-long commitment (one full school year), and every member is required to rehearse together and privately at home. Upon attaining their Bronze Award, Junior Band members progress to the Intermediate Band.

## OUR BANDS

The Band Program consists of three main band ensembles and a smaller extension Big Band (Jazz Band). Children generally commence in Junior Band in Year 3 and following completion of relevant awards each year (Bronze, Silver, Gold), progress through to the senior bands.

## JUNIOR BAND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Each band rehearses twice weekly during school terms, with one morning and one afternoon practice (commences Late Feb - December). Rehearsals take place in the school hall.

- **Afternoon rehearsal on WEDNESDAY 3:00-4:15pm**
- **Morning rehearsal on FRIDAY 7:30-8:50am**

Attendance at every rehearsal is mandatory. Regular attendance and punctuality are extremely important for all band members. Members are expected to assist in the set up and pack up of all instruments.

## PRIVATE TUITION

In addition to the twice-weekly band rehearsals, all children enrolled in the band program **must have one half-hour individual music lesson per week** with a specialist tutor for their instrument. Our tutors ensure that their students are learning the correct technique for their instrument.

The band committee offers a tutorial program that puts students in contact with a tutor who provides lesson on school premises – these take place on weekdays after school in LPS classrooms. Tutorials are held between 3.30-6.30pm. Our tutor coordinator will allocate your child to a tutor specialising in your child's instrument. In early February, your allocated tutor will make contact with you via email to arrange the tutorial time. Parents should then communicate directly with the tutor.

In addition to Band music, your tutor will provide other music and exercises to suit your child's abilities and interests, including classical, contemporary, jazz, Scales/Rhythms, Tonguing/percussion exercises and musical knowledge/theory. Optional AMEB Exams (Australian Music Examinations Board) may be undertaken, arranged with your tutor.

You are welcome to arrange an external tutor should you prefer. External tutors are asked to provide lessons using LPS Band program material and awards requirements.

Contact Tutorial Coordinator: [bandtutorials.lps@gmail.com](mailto:bandtutorials.lps@gmail.com)

## Home Practice

Home practice is encouraged to develop skills and improve enjoyment. Junior Band students begin with short 5 - 10 minutes daily practice (30-60min total per week), increasing as they progress. Musical development correlates directly with the amount of effort and time. Students who develop a regular practice 'habit' will excel at music.

## INSTRUMENTS IN THE BAND

A concert band is also called a 'wind orchestra', comprising woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. For a Concert Band to be "balanced" it needs all the instruments represented in the correct mix, to achieve the right sound. This requires careful consideration from the Conductors. For this reason, we cannot simply allocate all students the instrument they initially want, as the whole make-up of the band must be considered. As a guide, the composition of the band may look like this:

### 40-piece Band

7 flutes  
10 clarinets  
4 saxophones  
6 trumpets  
3 horns  
3 trombones  
1 euphoniums/baritones  
2 tubas  
4 percussionists

### 50-piece Band

9 flutes  
12 clarinets  
5 saxophones  
7 trumpets  
4 horns  
4 trombones  
2 euphoniums/baritones  
3 tubas  
4 percussionists

### 60-piece Band

11 flutes  
14 clarinets  
6 saxophones  
8 trumpets  
4 horns  
5 trombones  
4 euphoniums/baritones  
3 tubas  
5 Percussionists

## Instrument allocation

Once you register to join the band program, your child will be allocated an instrument. Instrument allocation will take into consideration your child's preference, suitability and availability/balance of the band.

## INSTRUMENT HIRE / PURCHASE

Once you have an allocated instrument, you will need to arrange to purchase or hire an instrument (before Term 1) and a music stand for home use.

Students allocated the clarinet, flute, alto saxophone or the trumpet will need to purchase (or hire externally) their own instrument. The Band Program does not have these to hire.

**Instrument hire is available for the following instruments only:**

- Tenor Saxophone
- French Horn
- Baritone
- Tuba
- Trombone
- Euphonium

Percussion students will be expected to own their own drumsticks, timpani mallets, and glockenspiel/ xylophone mallets all kept in a stick-bag. They will also need to hire / own their own glockenspiel, drum pad and eventually a drum kit.

## MUSIC CAMP

The highlight of the Band calendar is the annual Music Camp. Junior Band members attend for 2 full days and 1 overnight (Monday/Tuesday in June). During this intensive program, junior band plays together and in instrument sections with tutors, as well as enjoying some fun activities and performing in a concert for parents.

## EXPECTATIONS AND PARENT HELPERS

### Code of Conduct

All students must adhere to the Band Code of Conduct.

### Parent Helpers at Rehearsals

Parents are rostered on twice a year to help at Junior Band rehearsal. This volunteer role supports the conductors in supervising the rehearsal as a duty of care. If you are unable to cover your shift it is the parent/carer's responsibility to organise a shift swap and advise the Band Parent Representatives. Parent helpers are also required for supervision and support at Music Camp.

### Parent Band Reps

Each band has one or two parent volunteers who act as representatives to liaise between the parents, the conductor and the committee. They will be your initial point of contact for any questions you may have regarding the Program. Band reps will organise the band parent helper roster and communicate upcoming band events.

## BAND PROGRAM FEES

The band program operates on a non-profit basis and is funded through band fees paid by participating students. The cost for a child in Junior Band in 2022 for is expected to be:

Fees	Amount	Payable
<b>Band fees</b>	Approx \$630 (incl GST) per annum, split into 2 half-yearly payments	Semester 1 fees: Includes cost of books & bag. Semester 2 fees: Due August for Term 3 & 4
<b>Tutorial fees</b>	\$41 per lesson (approx \$1640 per year)	Payable direct to tutor each term, due within 2 weeks of invoicing.
<b>Music camp (2 days/ 1 night)</b>	2022 fees TBC (2019 cost ~ \$390 inc GST)	Camp fee payable late May, early June prior to camp commencing. Further details to come
<b>Hire Fees*</b>	\$220 (incl GST) per annum	\$110 – Semester 1 fees: due February for Term 1 & 2 upon receipt of instrument \$110 – Semester 2 fees due August for Term 3 & 4
<b>Hire Bond Fee*</b>	\$150 (no GST) Refundable	\$150 – payable February upon receipt of instrument. Refunded when the child leaves band or instrument hire is no longer required.
<b>Instrument purchase</b>	\$ varies	You may choose to purchase your child's instrument new or second-hand. Depending on their allocation, this may be a requirement (i.e. No hire available).

\* Hire and bond are only due where your child hires an instrument

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q Can my child attend only 1 band rehearsal a week?**

No, band members must attend **both** rehearsals, 1 before and 1 after school each week during term.

### **Q What is the time commitment in Junior Band?**

Time at 2 x Rehearsals, 30min tutorial and 5-10mins daily home practice = 3.5hrs a week, which is easily accommodated by most students.

### **Q Where can I buy an instrument?**

You could try: Turramurra Music, Adlib Music (Chatswood), Sax and Woodwind (City) and Mall Music (Macquarie Centre). Second-Hand instruments (through the various marketplace platforms) may be an option.

### **Q What music do they play in junior band?**

'Accent on Achievement' Music Book plus a range of simple-to-play, contemporary, classical and popular music. All music is provided.

### **Q Do I need to buy any music?**

All music is provided in the band program (cost included in band fees). You may purchase additional music, such as AMEB exam music or other solo music (optional) for your child's own home use.

### **Q What do band fees cover?**

Fees pay for rehearsal costs, conductor fees, music, music instruments (percussion), music stands, festival fees, shared resources, maintenance and administration costs. The program aims to keep fees as low as possible and can offer fee assistance to families (by confidential arrangement) if required.

### **Q Can I choose the time/day for the tutorial?**

The tutor will be allocated a day/classroom location for a 3hour block 3:30-6:30pm. There may be some flexibility with available time slots. We understand families have many activities and commitments to juggle, so we know it can be difficult to arrange a mutually convenient time, and you may need to be flexible.

### **Q Can I arrange my own tutor externally?**

Yes, you may organise your own external tutor outside school premises. External tutors must follow the LPS Band music program materials.

### **Q Can my child change to another instrument if they don't like their allocated instrument?**

We ask everyone to try their instrument for a year in Junior Band and consult your conductor if there are any issues about continuing.

### **Q Do I get a refund or make-up session for missed rehearsals?**

No. If you cannot attend rehearsals or leave the band program, no refund will be given. Students who leave band must let the conductors/band rep know of their intention and ensure tutors are given notice.

Contact: [band@lpspandc.org.au](mailto:band@lpspandc.org.au) if you have any other questions/enquiries