



Instrumental and Ensemble Policy

1. Instrumental & Vocal Attendance

- 1.1 Students enrolled in Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) program are required to attend their lesson every week. Even though the instrumental lessons do not appear on the student's regular timetable, they are no less important than any other subject lesson. **Failure to attend an instrumental lesson is a truancy.**
- 1.2 In Term 1 of the school year, Temporary Instrumental Timetables are displayed in the Performing Arts Office window until about Week 4. Once class groups have been established, Permanent Rotating Instrumental Timetables are produced and distributed to the students by the IMSS staff. Copies of these are always on display in the window of the Performing Arts Office. These timetables generally cover one term at a time.
- 1.3
 - (a) Students must carefully check the Assessment Outlines given to them by their various subject teachers to identify potential clashes with their instrumental lessons.
 - (b) In the event of a clash, the first step is for the student to request permission to do their class assessment at an alternative time.
 - (c) If this is not possible, the student must speak to their instrumental teacher and plan an alternative lesson time for their group (i.e. a swap with another group).

2. Instrumental & Vocal Assessment

All instrumental is undertaken by IMSS staff and coordinated by the Head of Music. Reporting is undertaken each semester and will appear along with reports from all other subject areas.

3. Practice Journal

IMSS Policy states that a parent/guardian's first means of communication with their child's instrumental teacher is via the Practice Journal. Students should record every practice session in their Journal, get a parent/guardian to sign it weekly (ideally the day before the student's lesson) and bring it with them to every lesson. Students are advised to have their instrumental timetable glued into their Practice Journal.

4. Ensemble Eligibility

- 4.1 Students from Years 7-10 are only eligible to be members of an Applecross SHS Music Department Ensemble while enrolled in Class Music
- 4.2 Class Music students who learn an instrument *privately* are eligible to be members of an Applecross SHS Music Department Ensemble given that:
 - a) They provide a letter from their instrumental teacher to the Head of Music indicating that tuition is regular and ongoing.
 - b) They meet all the exact attendance requirements as IMSS students.

Students will only be accepted into an ensemble after a successful audition for the relevant conductor. Privately taught students' membership of an ensemble may need to be periodically reviewed to ensure appropriate performance levels are being maintained.

- 4.3 Except for students already in Concert Band 1, Scimitar String Orchestra and Senior Guitar Ensemble, Class Music students will be auditioned to determine appropriate ensemble placement.
- 4.4 Students who complete the Class Music elective (Years 7-10) may participate in their ensemble throughout Years 11 and 12. However, students withdrawing from an ensemble mid-year are discouraged due to the disruption it causes ensemble performances. As such, it is greatly preferred that students do not elect to continue in their ensemble if they - are unable to commit to their ensemble for at least a full year. Year 11 & 12 students who elect to participate are subject to the same attendance policy as enrolled students.



Instrumental and Ensemble Policy

5. Ensemble Attendance

- 5.1. Attendance at rehearsals is compulsory for all Class Music students. The weekly ensemble rehearsal is a curricular lesson in the same manner as Mathematics and English classes. *Failure to attend an ensemble rehearsal is a truancy.*
- 5.2. When a student is absent from their rehearsal, but present at school on the same day, it is a requirement that a parent/guardian provide the conductor with an explanation (via email, text message, phone call or letter). This must be done at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.3. When a student has been absent from school on a rehearsal day, it is not necessary for a parent/guardian to communicate separately with the conductor.
- 5.4. In exceptional circumstances, students may be excused from a rehearsal if a parent/guardian provides appropriate communication (email, text message, phone call or letter) in advance of the rehearsal. Routine medical and dental appointments are not considered an exception, so it is greatly appreciated if these appointments can be booked at other times.
- 5.5. Any request made by a student to miss a rehearsal (or leave early) will be denied by their conductor, unless a parent/guardian provides appropriate communication in advance, or collects their child personally from the rehearsal.
- 5.6. Attendance at all scheduled performances (concerts, festivals, etc.) and camps is compulsory. Concerning performances, in the event of sudden illness, a parent/guardian should contact the student's ensemble conductor at the earliest opportunity.

6. Chamber Choir

- 6.1 The Chamber Choir is primarily for IMSS vocal students.
- 6.2 Enrolled music students who learn another instrument (IMSS or private) may participate in Chamber Choir as a second ensemble, but they must meet the same attendance and eligibility requirements as IMSS vocal students. The Chamber Choir conductor has a trial period for these students, to assess their suitability for this ensemble.

7. Jazz Band (extracurricular ensemble)

The school provides resources and staffing for Jazz Band as an extension option for enrolled music students. Under most circumstances, the Jazz Band will only draw students from the senior ensembles. Students may not elect to be in Jazz Band as their only ensemble. Any student not meeting their main ensembles' eligibility requirements will not be permitted to participate in Jazz Band. Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the Head of Music in consultation with Jazz Band's conductor.