



## Instrumental Vocal and Ensemble Policy

### 1. Music Program Overview

For students in Years 7-10, the Music Program consists of three compulsory elements:

- i. Enrolment in the Class Music elective
- ii. A weekly instrumental lesson (IMSS or private)
- iii. Membership of a school ensemble

For students in Years 11-12, the Music Program offers the following options:

- Music ATAR + practical lesson (IMSS or private) + ensemble membership
- Music General + practical lesson (IMSS or private) + ensemble membership
- PIMS: Instrumental and Ensemble Music endorsed unit (IMSS students only)
- Membership of a school ensemble (a non-enrolled option)

### 2. Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) Lesson Attendance

2.1 Students enrolled in the IMSS Program are required to attend their lessons 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 truancy.*

2.2 In Term One, Temporary Instrumental Timetables are displayed on the Performing Arts Noticeboard until approximately Week 5. Once class groups have been established, Rotating Instrumental Timetables are produced by the IMSS staff and made available to the students via Connect. They generally cover one term at a time.

2.3

- a) Students must carefully check the Assessment Outlines given to them by their various subject teachers to identify any potential clashes with their instrumental lessons.
- b) In the event of a clash, the first step is for the student to request for 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 try to plan an alternative lesson time for their group (i.e., a swap with another group).

### 3. IMSS 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 learning areas.

### 4. IMSS Practice Journal

It is IMSS Policy 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 on a weekly basis (ideally the day before the student's lesson) and bring it with them to every lesson.

### 5. Withdrawing from the IMSS Program

- Membership in the IMSS Program is a great privilege which offers significant academic, social, and emotional benefits. Before any firm decisions about withdrawing from IMSS lessons, students and parents are requested to engage in a conversation with the Head of Music.
- Parents may only withdraw their child from the IMSS Program within the first 5 weeks of Term 1.
- For parents to withdraw their children from the IMSS Program, an email should be sent to the Head of Music, requesting the Notification of Intent to **Withdraw From The Instrumental Music School Services Program** form.

### 6. Private Instrumental Lessons

- 6.1 Students who have previously received paid instrumental or vocal lessons will have to continue learning on a private basis whilst they wish to participate in the Applecross SHS Music Program. Private lessons need to occur on a regular weekly basis.
- 6.2 At the beginning of each school year, parents are required to email the Head of Music the name, email address and mobile phone number of their child's private instrumental teacher.



## Instrumental Vocal and Ensemble Policy

### 7. Ensemble Eligibility

- 7.1 Students from Years 7-10 are only eligible to be members of an Applecross SHS Music Department Ensemble while enrolled in Class Music.
- 7.2 Class Music students who learn an instrument privately are eligible to be members of an Applecross SHS Music Department Ensemble given that:
- They provide a letter from their instrumental teacher to the Head of Music indicating that tuition is regular and ongoing.
  - They meet all the same 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 levels of performance are being maintained.*
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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 is highly 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 and 12 students who elect to participate are subject to the same attendance policy as enrolled students.

### Ensemble Attendance

- 8.1 Attendance at rehearsals is compulsory for all Class Music students. The weekly ensemble rehearsal is a curricular lesson in the same manner as, for example, Mathematics and English classes. Failure to attend an ensemble rehearsal is truancy.
- 8.2 When a student is absent from rehearsal but present at school on the same day, a parent/guardian must provide the conductor with an explanation (via email, text message, phone call, or letter) as soon as possible.
- 8.3 When a student is absent from school on the day of a rehearsal, a parent or guardian does not need to communicate separately with the conductor.
- 8.4 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 would be greatly appreciated if these appointments could be booked at other times.
- 8.5 The conductor will deny a student's request to miss a rehearsal (or leave early) unless a parent/guardian communicates appropriately in advance or collects their child personally from the rehearsal.
- 8.6 Attendance at all scheduled performances (concerts, festivals, etc.) and camps is compulsory. With respect to performances, in the event of sudden illness, a parent/guardian should contact the student's ensemble conductor at the earliest opportunity.



## Instrumental Vocal and Ensemble Policy

### **9. Choir**

- 9.1 Choir is the mandated ensemble for IMSS voice students.
- 9.2 Enrolled music students who learn another instrument (IMSS or private) may participate in 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, in order to assess their suitability for this ensemble.
- 9.3 The Music Department is trialling Choir membership for students who are not enrolled in Class Music (Years 7-10). Until further notice, interested students may apply for Choir membership at the beginning of the school year by completing an audition with the Choir Conductor. There is a probationary period throughout Term 1. It is preferred that non-enrolled Choir students have private weekly voice lessons organised by their parents. Non-enrolled Choir students must meet the same attendance and behavioural requirements as enrolled Choir members.

### **10. Jazz Band (extracurricular ensemble)**

The school provides resources and staffing for Jazz Band as an extension option for enrolled music students. Under most circumstances, 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 the eligibility requirements for their main ensembles 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 the conductor of Jazz Band.