



# Parent Guide

## Instrumental Lessons @ Mary's Mount PS

### What does Focus Music do?

Focus Music is a specialist music school delivering instrumental programs in schools and the wider community. We run a range of music programs including **individual** and **group instrumental lessons, toddler classes, music enrichment sessions for children with a disability** and **band programs**. The aim of our programs is inclusiveness - for students to learn, have fun and connect with other like-minded individuals.

### Why is Focus Music different?

Focus Music is run and operated by professional, tertiary-qualified instrumental teachers. In order to teach at Focus Music, our instrumental teachers have met stringent qualification criteria in education, music and related fields. This ensures that we offer only the best teachers, resulting in the best educational outcomes for your child.

### Who are your lessons for?

Instrumental lessons at MMPS are offered to all Students from Years Pre-Primary to 6.

### What do you teach in your lessons?

Our experienced Teachers use evidence-based teaching methodologies to develop a child's musicianship in a comprehensive way. Lessons combine learning to *play* the instrument with reading music, and fundamental aspects of theory (the *language* of music). Students are taught to develop their musical ear and skills on their instrument through the careful selection of pieces, from a range of styles from classical to contemporary pop songs. This ensures lessons are fun, engaging and educational, all at the same time!

### What instruments do you teach at MMPS?

Instruments available for the in-school instrument program are **Guitar, Drums, Piano, Violin** and **Voice**. Students are also given the opportunity to participate in a structured after-school **Band Program**, providing them with performance opportunities, learning to play with others, and an outlet to put all that practice into something tangible.

### How do we enroll?

Enrolment is easy. Simply complete an Enrolment Form via the Focus Music website or ask for an Enrolment Form from your School Office.

### How long do we enroll for?

Students are enrolled for one Term. Lessons are conducted weekly. The cut off for enrolment is the end of Week 2 of each Term. Enrolments received after this time will commence the following Term.

### How does lesson scheduling work?

We pride ourselves on effective and efficient communication with our parents and students. Our timetabling system schedules students with their Teacher and automatically sends courtesy reminder emails to parents the day before their child's lesson. It also sends any updates regarding lesson reschedules (e.g. due to school excursions/incursions). Focus Music Teachers will fetch the student from their classroom.

Focus Music also considers the school's calendar when scheduling lessons. Students will be scheduled around calendared events such as NAPLAN and Public Holidays. Parents and Students will also receive a print out of their lessons for the Term at the beginning of their enrolment. This, coupled with our professional Administration Team, will ensure seamless contact with the school, parents and students.

### **What if we need to reschedule a lesson?**

In the event that a student is unable to attend a lesson for any reason, we ask that parents provide a minimum of 48 hours' notice so we can advise the Teacher and reschedule the lesson on an alternate day and/or time. For full T&C's please refer to your Enrolment Form which can be found at our website.

### **I don't want my child to miss out on the same class time every week. How do you make sure having lessons won't affect their class learning?**

We understand and are conscious of the importance of children leaving class for instrumental lessons. To counteract this, Focus Music recommends a 30-minute lesson (either individual or group), once a week, to reduce time spent out of class whilst still maximizing their instrumental learning.

Focus Music implements a **rotational timetable** where a student moves through 30-minute time slots throughout the Term to ensure they do not miss out on the same time/subject on any day. Parents may also choose to preference a permanent lesson time based on a time of day depending on teacher availability. For example, parents may select lessons for their child at a permanent before-school, recess, lunchtime or after-school.

### **How do we make payment?**

Focus Music is strongly focused on community engagement through music education and aims to provide all of our students, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds, the chance to learn and enjoy the benefits of playing music. Term lesson fees can be divided into **manageable fortnightly or monthly payments** via Direct Debit with no additional cost to parents. Alternatively upfront payment can be made via bank transfer, EFTPOS, or Cash at our Head Office in Forrestfield or over the phone. Focus Music also offers special discounted lesson rates to all MMPS Students.

### **Can we buy instruments through Focus Music?**

**Yes!** Because Focus Music is focused on *teaching* music, and not being a music store, we are able to provide students with the instruments, books and accessories they need at *less than retail price*, saving parents and students' money and time. All instruments can be placed on a Direct Debit payment along with their tuition fees, allowing families easier cash flow and ensuring their child can learn and grow with us.

### **Are your staff qualified?**

All of our staff hold Working With Children Checks, hold qualifications in music, education or related fields, and have experience in working with students in a range of areas from children with a disability, mainstream primary and secondary schools.

### **What else do you offer?**

All students receive a free **Welcome Pack** complete with a **Practice Journal** through which the Student, Parent and Teacher can communicate the required learning outcomes and feedback for the week. We feel it is important that our students receive regular feedback on their progress both during and at the end of Term. Our Teachers provide **Individual Term Reports** to every student.