



MUSICICKING MAESTROS

NURTURING MUSICAL MINDS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Instrumental Music Lessons Handbook

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Alphonsus Tan
Director and Teacher

Welcome to Musicking Maestros!

We are delighted to offer our quality music programs and lessons to the students of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Darwin.

We hope this booklet proves to be a valuable resource for you, outlining our lessons, fees, and policies, so that both your child can enjoy a positive experience in music lessons with Musicking Maestros.

Our Vision, Mission and Education Philosophy

Our vision is to ensure that all children have access to quality music education, enabling them to enjoy the social, developmental, physical, and emotional benefits it brings.

Guided by Shinichi Suzuki's philosophy of "Beautiful Heart, Beautiful Tone," our mission is to cultivate each young individual into a beautiful and resilient member of society through the power of music.

We aim to achieve our vision and mission by offering excellent music programs that prioritize child development and well-being, while also partnering with and educating caregivers to support their child's creative and musical journey.

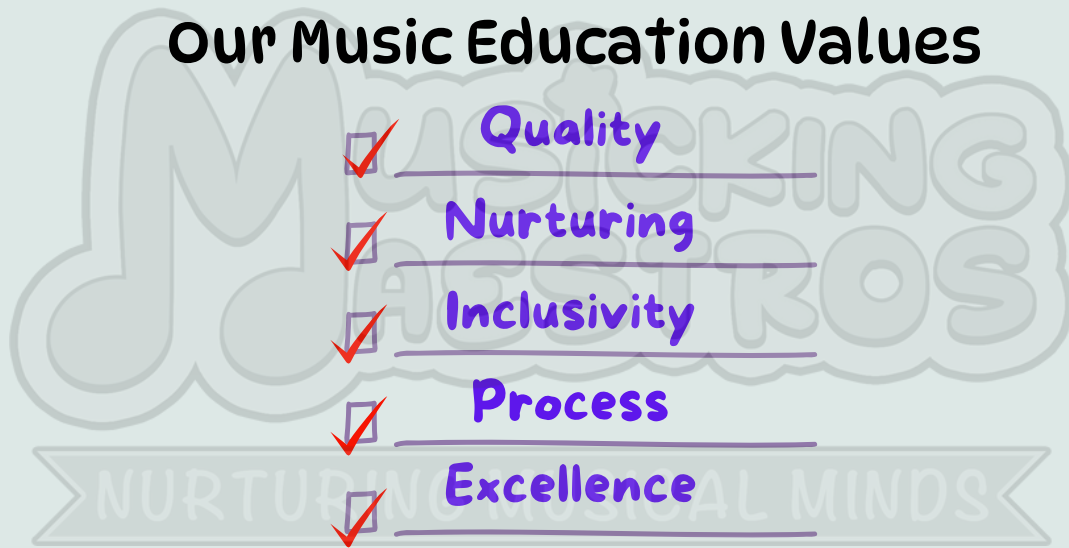
Motto: Nurturing Musical Minds

We are convinced that a high-quality music education fosters not only a child's musical abilities but also their physical, social, and emotional growth.

In our classes and programs, we collaborate closely with you, whether you are a parent or caregiver, to nurture your child's creative, musical, and overall development.

Our commitment is to continually seek out music programs that contribute to your child's holistic growth, extending beyond just music.

Our Music Education Values



We deliver **QUALITY** education by ensuring that our programs and lessons have well-defined objectives, strategies, and goals to foster a meaningful learning experience for our students.

Our mission is to **NURTURE** students not only by cultivating their appreciation and love for music but also by supporting their overall social, emotional, and mental well-being through music education.

We are committed to ensuring that our teaching methods are designed to **INCLUDE** every student, accommodating a range of learning needs.

Our focus is on the student's **PROCESS** of learning, emphasizing the journey of skill and knowledge acquisition rather than solely the final outcome.

We strive to promote **EXCELLENCE** in our students' work by encouraging them to produce their best effort in all tasks.



Lessons We Offer



**Group Keyboard Lessons
from 4 years to 12 years**

Our Group Keyboard Classes feature an innovative curriculum that encompasses not just the basics of piano playing but also general musicianship, listening skills, composition, and improvisation.

The groups are organized by age level, with each designed thoughtfully to align with piano and music pedagogy, taking into account how children best acquire knowledge and skills in their piano learning journey.

Each age group utilizes a series of workbooks centered around a story or theme, helping children to find meaning in the pieces they learn, guiding them toward a coherent endpoint.

The curriculum is cyclical, ensuring that students build a strong foundation that is securely established, while also providing the right level of support and challenge.



**Group Guitar Program
For Children from 8 years**

The unique comprehensive guitar curriculum designed to guide students from complete beginners to skilled musicians. This innovative program merges modern guitar instruction with learning psychology, advanced sports science, the discipline of martial arts, and the enjoyment of video games, creating an engaging guitar method that appeals to learners of all ages.

By concentrating on The 7 Key Areas of Guitar, students experience rapid advancements in their skills, gaining confidence with each achievement their next lesson brings. They will acquire essential skills and concepts for contemporary guitar playing as they progress through nine levels:



**Group Violin Program
For Children from 8 years**

The group violin curriculum for young children focuses on building a strong foundation in musicianship, ensemble playing, and essential violin techniques.

Aural skills develop progressively through singing and movement, preparing students for orchestral participation. Materials are engaging, encouraging creativity and exploration through composition.

The curriculum features songs with lyrics for expression, original pieces, folk songs, and works from renowned composers to maintain children's enthusiasm.



Individual Music Lessons

We provide personalized one-on-one lessons for the following instruments: Piano, Violin, Viola and Cello.

Our experienced instructors utilize various teaching methods to enhance the learning experience. These lessons are ideal for students looking to tailor their education and set specific goals to achieve.

We will also add other instruments in the future. Please indicate your preference in the enrolment form if your child would like to learn a different instrument.

Why Group Piano?



Your child will thrive in group classes:

Starting your child's piano learning in a group will give them opportunities to develop a wide range of foundational skills and will ignite their love of playing.



Musical Interactions

Making music together is the most impactful way for students to engage with piano learning. Our repertoire is designed to be interactive and students develop confident performance skills.

Collaborative Learners

When students learn together, and have a common aim, they work as a team and every individual is motivated and invested. Games, songs and creative tasks are achieved by working as a group.



Creative Opportunities

In our groups, we can incorporate creative learning opportunities such as improvisation and composition. Our topics inspire and give relevance to piano playing and musical elements.

Variety of Activities

When students learn together, and have a common aim, they work as a team and every individual is motivated and invested. Games, songs and creative tasks are achieved by working as a group.



Secure Foundations

With our ability to consolidate and review, while deepening the application of skills and concepts, our cyclical approach is the ideal learning structure for students. The careful building blocks and scaffolding of concepts, ensure our students have secure foundations.

Fun!

Our students have fun! They love their classes and this enjoyment enables them to access and apply their learning more successfully.



Registration

All interested students are required to express their interest in our lessons through our website. We will reach out to you when a class or spot becomes available.

By registering, you also give us permission to contact you about future classes, music programs, and openings. If you decide to withdraw your consent, kindly inform us in writing.

Modes of Communication

We utilize the following methods to stay in touch with our families:

1. Email
2. Phone Call

We kindly ask all families to confirm that these communication methods are effective for you. If you have a preferred way to be contacted, please let us know.

Fee Structure

All fees are charged as a term of eight lessons. Please check the relevant program/ lessons for the fees per term.

If your child enrolls mid-term, we may adjust the fees accordingly.

Payment Methods

Fees can be paid through the following methods:

1. Direct Debit via EZYPAY (Most Preferred)
2. Online Payment with Credit/Debit Card

After your child's enrolment confirmation, an EZYPAY link will be provided for direct debit details, which will be securely used only for payments. An invoice will be sent with the payment due date, and it will include a 'pay invoice' link. If you prefer manual online payment, please notify us at least 48 hours before the due date to avoid double charges.



General Information / Policies

Late/ Dishonour Fees

Please ensure your direct debit method has sufficient funds 24 hours before the due date. A \$16.39 dishonor fee will be charged by EZYPAY for each failed payment, and a \$20 late fee by us may apply for delayed payments.

Lesson Calendar and Schedule

Instrumental Music Lessons typically occur during school hours. Each week, your child will be removed from their scheduled classes on the same day and time as specified by the teacher.

However, there may be certain days when the teacher needs to adjust the timetable due to unexpected circumstances.

We will make every effort to ensure that all children on our list receive their lessons during the designated week and day.

Attendance/ Cancellation Of Lessons/ Make Up Lessons

Please notify us of any lesson absences via SMS or email due to any circumstances. St Mary's Catholic Primary School is not responsible for informing Musicking Maestros about your child's absence or school events.

If a teacher cancels a lesson, it will be rescheduled.

For group classes, we typically do not cancel sessions due to year level or class events. However, if your child misses two or more lessons in a term because of school events or illness, we may offer a 'goodwill' catch-up lesson, provided you inform us of the absence promptly.

For individual lessons, we will grant up to two sick credits per term, as long as you give at least a 12 hour notice of your child's absence from school.

Musicking Maestros will reschedule the lesson if the lesson falls on whole school events such as whole school mass/ liturgy, student-free days etc.



General Information /Policies

Termination/ Continuation of Lessons

Students are required to complete the full lesson term, as refunds are not available for those who choose to discontinue lessons. Enrollment will automatically carry over to the next term.

To cancel lessons for the upcoming term, please submit a written request before the current term concludes; otherwise, you may incur charges for the next term.

Use of Photos and Videos

Musicking Maestros may capture photographs or videos of lessons, which could be used in marketing materials, social media, newsletters, our website, or in advertisements for marketing partners like Darwin Family Life.

We will reference your consent provided in your enrolment form before publication. However, if you ever decide to change your mind, please let us know immediately.

Policy Concession for Children with Special Needs

Musicking Maestros may offer certain adjustments or modifications to policies concerning children with special needs. These adjustments will be communicated with the family, ensuring they are fully informed of any concessions made.

Contact Information

For inquiries, contact us at:

- Phone: 0423 326 884
- Email: admin@musickingmaestros.com.au

Visit our website for program details and updates:

<https://www.musickingmaestros.com.au>.

Connect with us on Facebook at 'Musicking Maestros'.





Fees and Lesson Structure

Fees schedule and Rates

The fees for our various music programs/ lessons for 2025 are as follows:

Individual Lessons:

\$384 for 8 Lessons per term (30 minutes)

Group Keyboard Lesson:

\$248 for 8 Lessons Per Term (45 minutes)

Includes materials and licence fees.

Group Violin Lessons

\$248 for 8 lessons per term (45 minutes)

In addition, there may be an additional book cost that may be required to be purchased.

Group Guitar Lessons:

\$248 for 8 lessons per term (45 minutes)

Includes home videos access fee- Guitar Ninja Dojo Online Platform

In addition, there may be an additional book cost that may be required to be purchased.

All fees listed above include a 10% GST.



Lesson and Home Practice Policies



Class Grouping Policy – For group lessons only

We typically limit our group size to a maximum of four students. However, there may be exceptional situations that necessitate exceeding this limit. We will ensure that effective learning continues by carefully selecting both the group size and the students involved.

Musicking Maestros reserves the right to determine which students are placed together and their corresponding curriculum levels.

The class group is generally formed based on the following criteria:

1. Number of workbooks completed or skill level
2. Child's engagement
3. Experience level

Practice and Preparation for Lessons



At Musicking Maestros, we believe it is essential for students to practice at home to maximize your financial investment in their music education. Please consult your teacher in home practice schedule and routine that may work for your child.

We also emphasize the importance of students arriving at lessons with the necessary books and materials. The teacher retains the right to forfeit the lesson if a student comes unprepared without their required items.

Instruments For Home Practice

Every student participating in individual lessons should have an appropriate instrument for practicing at home. Be sure to consult with your teacher about the best instrument recommendations for your child.

Lesson and Home Practice Policies

Materials Needed for Lessons

Your child is responsible for bringing their books and instruments required for the lessons.

Individual Lessons:

- The books/ music folder that contains the repertoire which your child is working on.
- A notebook for home practice notes and communication purposes.

Group Keyboard Lesson:

- Little Keynotes/ Storytellers/ Keynote Play Workbooks, provided to your child on their first lesson.
- A notebook for home practice notes and communication purposes.

Group Violin Lesson:

- Violin
- Folders that contain the lesson materials provided by the teacher.
- A notebook for home practice notes and communication purposes.

Group Guitar Lessons:

- Guitar
- Guitar Ninja Workbooks (We will advise you on how to purchase this)
- A notebook for home practice notes and communication purposes.

Parent Involvement in Lessons

Parents are welcomed to attend their child's lessons, provided they follow St Mary's Catholic Primary School's procedure of booking in. Please kindly inform the teacher of your intention to observe your child's lesson in the event of lesson swap.

Musicking Maestros recognizes the significant role that parents play in their child's music education and strongly advocates for positive participation and support during lessons and at home.

**Thank you
for your
interest in
our
Music Classes.**