

Selection Process for the Instrumental Music Program at Grovely State School

All students Grade 2 and 4 (and Grade 3) are prepared for the generic Music Aural test called the Selmer Test during Classroom music. This is a written test which takes place in the classroom. The test indicates a student's ability to discriminate between Pitch, Harmony, Melody and Rhythm in a segment of music. Students in year 2 are tested to join the String program while students in years 3 (and 4) to join the Band program. Year 3 and 4 students, already in the String program, are not offered a position in the Band program.

As stated in Education Queensland's Instrumental Guidelines, recruitment depends on available time for tuition, expansion of the program, size of the school and so forth.

In choosing students for the following year, the following processes are adhered to:

MUSICAL APTITUDE TEST – The Selmer aptitude test is given to all students applying for a position in the program. This tests a student's ability to discern differences in harmony, pitch, melody and rhythm. A score out of 20 is given.

LIAISON WITH CLASSROOM MUSIC TEACHER – The classroom music specialist gives a rating for lesson behaviour, attitude, musical ability and participation in choir.

LIAISON WITH CLASSROOM TEACHER – The classroom teacher gives a grade for homework, behaviour, ability to work independently, parental support and a general comment on the child's ability to cope with the program.

THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER – Will test for physical attributes, e.g. height of child, size and agility of fingers, whether child has/will get braces, whether child has an overbite, etc.

All information is collated and children are placed in groups of suited instruments. Cut-off must be made for a balanced instrumentation in the ensembles. Not all students can be accepted due to the number of school instruments available, instrumental music teacher time allocation and maximum teaching numbers. However, students may be placed on a waiting list.

Note

1. As many children as possible are given the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Music Program.
2. All children have an equal chance of being involved allowing for prior experience or a lack of experience.
3. With limited school instruments and instruction time, the process of ascertaining the rank order of students to be offered school instruments and/or positions is as thorough as possible.
4. Children in the higher levels will be given the first preference so that a child may have the opportunity of being involved before leaving primary school.
5. In general, Strings are started in Year 3 and Band instruments in Year 4 from 2015. Where exceptional talent is evident, a student may be given a position earlier if resources are available.
6. Children with their own instrument may be offered a lesson time if there is a vacancy. Suitability must be ascertained.
7. Children who are already playing an instrument when entering the school, will be given a position in the program if a vacancy exists.
8. If a vacancy occurs, the child next in the rank order is to be offered an instrument and/or a position in the class. Item 4 (above) applies.

Retesting

Retesting is done at the discretion of the teachers involved. This may result from:

1. An unexpectedly good or bad score where the student's result does not ring true with their achievement to date.
2. A request from a parent.
3. Second round offers: a vacancy arising from a first round offer declined.

We try our best to suit the student to their chosen instrument but most of all we want students to enjoy their musical experience.