TOOWOOMBA
ANGLICAN SCHOOL
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PERFORMING ARTS HANDBOOK 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Toowoomba Anglican School endeavours to provide students with a diverse range of Performing Arts opportunities and offers a large range of ensemble choices in both Primary and Secondary areas of the school.
The Performing Arts at Toowoomba Anglican School are about participation, excellence, commitment, teamwork, and enjoyment at all levels of artistic pursuits. Our goal is to encourage within students, a life-long interest in the Performing Arts and pride in having done their best.
Lessons learnt in the Performing Arts are transferable to other aspects of life and help to develop crucial attributes that students will use for the rest of their lives as they become well-rounded individuals.

- Creativity
- Accountability
- Motor Skills and Coordination
- Focus and Concentration
- Decision Making
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Visual Learning
- Improved Academic Performance
- Perseverance
- Confidence and the ability to handle performance pressure

Involvement in the Performing Arts is a major component of student life at Toowoomba Anglican School. At the Primary school from Kindergarten to Year 6, the main goals are participation, commitment, skill building and enjoyment. As students progress through the Secondary school, these attributes remain, with a greater emphasis on excellence and skill development.

An expectation of participation in the Performing Arts at Toowoomba Anglican School permeates all areas of the school with full year level involvement in Prep to Year 3 Choirs, the Year 3 String Immersion Program, the Year 4 Band Immersion Program, the Year 3 to 6 Primary Musical, the Inter-House Primary Choir Competition and the Inter-House Secondary Choir and Dance competition and our Festival of Performing Arts.

Some of the aspects of the TAS Performing Arts program include the range of excellent facilities at the school, involvement in community events, teaching expertise, participation in domestic and international Performing Arts tours and the school/community arts model that Toowoomba Anglican School implements.

TOOWOOMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS

Overview

The Toowoomba Anglican School Performing Arts Program is highly regarded in the wider community. Class Music and Drama, whole school Performing Arts Activities and year level immersion programs encourage wide participation and diverse skill development.

At a Glance

- 24 Performing Arts Staff
- Partnerships with Empire Youth Arts Drama, JEDanceHouse, Toowoomba Choral Society, Queensland Symphony Orchestra Compose Connect, Shoebox Theatre Company
- Immersion Programs
    - Prep to Year 3 Choirs
    - Year 3 Strings
    - Year 4 Band
- 11 Choirs and Vocal Ensembles
- 17 Instrumental Ensembles
- 2 Dance Troupes and 2 Dance Classes
- Primary and Secondary Musicals, Secondary Play
- Performing Arts Options Electives for Primary-Secondary Students
- K-12 Class Music, including Year 12 Music Extension
- 7-12 Class Drama
- Festival of Performing Arts
- HPAC – House Performing Ars Competition
- Toowoomba Anglican School choirs, ensembles and individuals perform in a variety of settings, such as school events, eisteddfodau, festivals, community events and on domestic and international tours.

Facilities

- Toowoomba Anglican School has a state-of-the-art Creative Arts Centre housing a large double-sized ensemble rehearsal room/Secondary music classroom, with a grand piano, two large group teaching rooms, five generously-sized practice rooms, musical instrument storage facilities and a kitchen
- The newly refurbished Upper Connal building holds 6 new Performing Arts teaching Studios
- There is a large double-sized Primary music classroom in Upper Roberts with a multi-purpose dance floor, which is also used as a dance/drama rehearsal room
- The Chapel of St. Aidan with a grand piano and pipe organ, is home to chapel services and more Intimate concerts
- The large Millennium Centre is an assembly hall with retractable seating, a raised stage with curtaining, sound and lighting, a grand piano and portable stage piano
- There is a specialist Secondary Drama classroom with green screen
- An extensive costume room and music library
- There is a large range of hire instruments, classroom sets of percussion, keyboards, guitars and ukeleles.

Commitment to our Young Artists and Professional Development

Toowoomba Anglican School performing artists are encouraged to aspire to be the best that they can be in their chosen discipline. Many students take part in external examinations through Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB), Trinity College, or other examining bodies.

Toowoomba Anglican School Performing Arts is committed to training young performing artists to be informed and literate and who can confidently perform in their chosen discipline in solo and ensemble settings. We recognise that the ability to play an instrument, sing, perform a dramatic work, speak confidently in public, or dance is a skill that can be nurtured and developed into a life-long passion for, and engagement with, the Performing Arts community of Australia.

Toowoomba Anglican School recognises the need to provide professional development and performance opportunities to support teachers and performing artists in our local area and further afield.

ENSEMBLES, CHOIRS, DANCE TROUPES AND DRAMA CLUBS

Once a student is a member of an ensemble, choir, dance troupe or drama club, it is an expectation that they remain in this group for the year. Students need to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. If a student is missing from a rehearsal or performance, it has an effect on the group as a whole.

2026 Performing Arts Rehearsal Timetable

	BEFORE SCHOOL		
MONDAY	**7:30am** Primary Stage Band Creative Arts Centre		**8:00am** Primary Concert Band Creative Arts Centre
TUESDAY	**7:30am** Primary Chapel Choir Chapel	**8:00am** Primary Senior Choir Chapel	**7:30am** Secondary Senior Rock Band Creative Arts Centre
WEDNESDAY	**7:30am** Primary Chapel Choir Chapel **7:15am** Secondary Intermediate Rock Band Creative Arts Centre		**8:00am** Secondary Performance Choir Creative Arts Centre
THURSDAY	**7:30am** Secondary Stage Band Creative Arts Centre		**7:30am** Primary String Ensemble Upper Roberts
FRIDAY	**7:30am-8:30am** Secondary Chapel Choir Creative Arts Centre		**7:45am** Primary Dance Troupe

LUNCHTIME		AFTER SCHOOL	
1:25pm-2:05pm Secondary String Ensemble Creative Arts Centre		**3:30pm-4:15pm** Secondary Concert Band Creative Arts Centre	**3:30pm-4:30pm** JE Dancehouse Dance Class Prep-Year 2 Upper Roberts **4:30pm-5:30pm** JE Dancehouse Dance Class Year 3-Secondary Upper Roberts
1:25pm-2:05pm Aidan's Voices Creative Arts Centre		**3:30pm-4:30pm** Empire Youth Arts Primary Drama Class Upper Roberts	**4:30pm-5:30pm** Empire Youth Arts Secondary Drama Class Upper Roberts
1:25pm-3:30pm Secondary Musical/Play Various School Venues		**3:30pm-5:30pm** Secondary Musical/Play Various School Venues	
1:25pm Percussion Ensemble Creative Arts Centre	**1:25pm** Secondary Dance Troupe Upper Roberts		
1:25pm Secondary Musical/Play Various School Venues		**3:30pm-5:30pm** Secondary Musical/Play Various School Venues	

Instrumental Ensembles

Toowoomba Anglican School caters for students of all ages and abilities in a variety of ensembles. Advanced Primary students may be invited to join Secondary Ensembles to further extend their skills. Placement in ensembles occurs at the start of each year or students can be placed in ensembles by teacher recommendation at any time throughout the year. Students should be at the rehearsal venue at least 5 minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to start, to assist with setting up and packing away the ensemble/distributing music/setting up equipment etc. Students will require a display folder and pencil for rehearsals.

- Primary String Ensemble – 45-minute rehearsal per week
- Primary Chamber Strings/String Quartets – formed for special performances
- Secondary String Ensemble – 45-minute rehearsal per week
- Secondary Chamber Strings/String Quartets – formed for special performances
- Primary Concert Band – 30-minute rehearsal per week – more advanced players
- Primary Stage Band – 30-minute rehearsal per week – more advanced players
- Primary Jazz Ensemble – formed for special performances
- Primary Woodwind/Brass Ensembles – formed for special performances
- Secondary Concert Band - 45-minute rehearsal per week
- Secondary Stage Band – 60-minute rehearsal per week
- Secondary Small Ensembles – formed for special performances
- Secondary Rock Band/s – 60-minute rehearsal (Senior) and 45-minute rehearsal (Intermediate) per week. Advanced students by audition

Choirs

Toowoomba Anglican School is renowned for its choral program. There are compulsory year level immersion choirs for Prep to Year 3 and then voluntary choirs for older year levels. The Chapel Choirs perform at many community events and functions. Choirs from Year 3 to Secondary perform in the Toowoomba Eisteddfod and all choirs perform at school events.

- Prep Year Immersion Choir – 35-minute rehearsal per week (All Prep students)
- Year 1 Immersion Choir – 35-minute rehearsal per week in class time (All Year 1 students)
- Year 2 Immersion Choir - 35-minute rehearsal per week in class time (All Year 2 students)
- Year 3 Immersion Choir - 35-minute rehearsal per week in class time (All Year 3 students)
- Year 4 Extension Choir –rehearsals as needed (Selected Year 3/4 students)
- Primary Senior Choir – 30-minute rehearsal per week. Year 3-6 students with treble voices. Large Choir.
- Primary Chapel Choir – Approximately 25-30 voices. Two 30-minute rehearsals per week. Students in Years 4-6 with treble voices. By audition in September of the previous year, followed by a one Term probationary period in Term 4
- Secondary Performance Choir – 30 minute rehearsal per week. Large SATB Choir
- Secondary Chapel Choir – Approximately 50 voices. One 60-minute rehearsal and one 30-minute rehearsal per week. SATB Choir. By audition in September of the previous year, followed by a one Term probationary period in Term 4
- Aidan's Voices - Rehearsals as required. 16-20 voice auditioned vocal ensemble taken from members of the Secondary Chapel Choir. SATB Vocal Ensemble
- Primary Secret Men's Business - Rehearsals as required. For treble boys in Years 3-6. By invitation
- Secondary Men's Choir - Rehearsals as required. For male voices in Years 7-12. By invitation

Chapel Choirs

There are three auditioned Chapel Choirs who perform at fortnightly Chapel Services. Students must audition to gain a place in these Chapel Choirs. The Primary and Secondary Chapel Choirs hold auditions in September of the previous year. This audition process tests students' musical potential and an application form is to be filled out. Once successful, students undertake a one term probationary period in Term 4 and are formally inducted into the Chapel Choir in a ceremony early in Term 1.

Aidan's Voices, a chamber SATB choir, is auditioned from the Secondary Chapel Choir early in Term 1.
To apply for the Chapel Choir membership in 2027, please complete the Audition Form below.

A reminder about auditions and information regarding the choirs and audition process will be sent to parents in August.

2027 Secondary Chapel Choir Audition Form (Students in Years 6-11 in 2027)

2027 Primary Chapel Choir Audition Form (Students in Years 3-5 in 2027)

Applications are due by 4pm Friday, 21 August 2026.
(Electronic copies of the forms can also be found in the Performing Arts Handbook on the TAS App.)

Dance Troupes and Classes

There are Primary and Secondary Dance Troupes. Auditions for these troupes involve students joining a rehearsal to see how they cope with the choreography and technical demands. Students need to have a background in dance or gymnastics. For students who are beginners, dance classes are available to develop their dance skills.

- Primary Dance Troupe – 45-minute rehearsal per week or as required (dance or gymnastics experience required)
- Secondary Dance Troupe – 60-minute rehearsal per week or as required – Advanced students
- Junior and Intermediate Dance Class – 45-minute class per week. Beginners are welcome and user pays. Run by JE Dancehouse (Prep to Secondary)

Drama Classes

- Empire Youth Arts Group Drama Class - 60-minute class per week. User pays. Primary and Secondary

Major Productions

Even Years:

- Secondary Musical – Rehearsals out of class time. Will include weekend rehearsals. Performances are in Term 3 – 21 & 22 August 2026.

Odd years:

- Primary Year 3-6 Musical – Lead and minor roles rehearse out of class time; all other students rehearse in music classes in Term 3
- Secondary Plays (Senior and Junior) – Rehearsals out of class time. Will include some weekend rehearsals. Performances are near the end of Term 2 at the Empire Theatre Armitage Centre

What to do if a student misses a Rehearsal or Performance

Parents should contact the conductor of the ensemble or the Director of Performing Arts in writing (by email, or text) to let them know of the absence and the reason for the absence. If a student is regularly missing rehearsals or is regularly late to rehearsals without a valid reason, their place may be given to another student, or they may be asked to leave the ensemble.

Performance Uniform

Toowoomba Anglican School Performing Arts instrumental ensembles and choirs perform in full school uniform with Blazer (from Years 3 to Secondary). Younger students perform in their full school uniform. Shoes should be polished, and girls require the correct colour hair ribbon. Formal performances in Terms 1 and 4 may require boys to wear a tie and long trousers with their Summer Uniform and boys and girls may require a blazer. Individuals competing in Eisteddfodau are encouraged to compete in school uniform unless a costume is being worn. Dance Troupes and Drama performances will require costumes. Details will be provided to parents and students prior to performances.

CLASS PERFORMING ARTS

Curriculum Subjects

Performing Arts Curriculum subjects are studied across all areas of the school at Toowoomba Anglican School. Primary students have Dance and Drama embedded in the Music Curriculum.

Students from Prep to Year 2 have one Music lesson and one Choir lesson per week.

Students in Year 3 have one music lesson, one choir lesson, and a small group instrumental lesson each week with extension Choirs and Ensembles as an optional activity.

Students in Year 4 have one music lesson and a small group instrumental lesson each week with Choirs and Ensembles as an optional activity.

Students in Years 5 and 6 have one Music lesson per week, with Choirs and Ensembles as an optional activity.

In Years 7 and 8, all students study Music and Drama. This culminates in the students' selection of Music and Drama as Electives in Year 9 and 10 and as Senior Authority subjects in Years 11 and 12. Music Extension is offered as a Year 12 only subject for advanced music students.

Full Year Level Arts Involvement

- Prep to Year 3 Immersion Choirs
- Year 3 String Immersion Program
- Year 4 Band Immersion Program
- Primary Musical from Years 3 to 6 (odd years)
- Primary Inter-House Performing Arts Festival – House Choir Competition
- Secondary Inter-House Performing Arts Festival – House Choir and Dance Competition
- Primary and Secondary options programs from Years 3 to 10

THE START OF THE YEAR

When do lessons and ensembles commence?

Lessons, Boarder Music Practice sessions, choirs, ensembles, drama and dance troupe rehearsals Commence in Week 2 of Term 1.

Age groupings for Performing Arts Ensembles and Group Lessons

Groupings in Performing Arts ensembles tend to be done by ability level, rather than age.
The exceptions for this are year level Immersion choirs from Prep to Year 3, the Year 3 String Immersion Program, the Year 4 Band Immersion Program and external provider classes with a specific age range.
We have beginners and advanced students of all ages.
Some advanced Primary performers may be invited to join a Secondary Ensemble.
Toowoomba Eisteddfod performances are generally grouped by year level rather than age i.e. Year 7 Piano Solo.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Individual and Ensemble Performance Opportunities

- Assembly Performance. Any student or group of students in Primary or Secondary may perform an item on Assembly. Performances should be at a polished standard and the Director of Performing Arts will decide if an item is suitable to perform. Contact the Performing Arts Office for details
- Morning Melodies or Lunchtime Concerts. These concerts are held in Terms 1, 2, and 3 and signup sheets are found in the Creative Arts Centre Staffroom. If a student learns from Toowoomba Anglican School, their teacher will nominate them. If a student learns outside of Toowoomba Anglican School, parents or the student may email the Performing Arts Office with details of Name, Instrument, and Title of Piece. If concerts are full, preference will go to students who learn from Toowoomba Anglican School
- Festival of Performing Arts. This is a competitive whole school inter-house festival which is run in Term 4. Students perform a solo or as a small group in a series of concerts. 20 house points are awarded to each performer, with an Exceptional certificate also able to be won - worth an extra 10 points. Students receive a certificate for their performance. All Secondary students compete in this Festival in Term 4 in the Inter-House Choir and Dance Competition. Primary students compete in an Inter-House Choir Competition. The Paris Wilson Memorial Trophy is awarded to the Champion Performing Arts House at Prize and Presentation Day

  Toowoomba Eisteddfod Part 1: 7 – 17 May; Part 2: 22 July – 2 August. Two parts of the Toowoomba Eisteddfod are held during the year. Many Toowoomba Anglican School ensembles enter this event and individuals will be entered by their private tutor. An entry fee is set by the Toowoomba Eisteddfod Committee and there is a permission question on our Performing Arts Tuition Forms for parents to complete. Entries will be done by the school in a bulk entry. The cost is placed on your school account. There is no entry fee cost for students involved in a large ensemble performance
- Festival Participation, such as Anglican Schools' Music Festival, Paul Morton Choral Festival, Sing Out, String Out, etc. A cost is normally associated with participation in these Festivals. A permission note will be sent home to all members of eligible ensembles and fees will be added to your school account
- Biennial Primary Musical (Years 3-6, odd years). Performances will be held on campus
- Biennial Secondary School Play (odd years) are held off-campus, or Musical (even years) In 2026 students in the Secondary School will perform the musical 'Footloose' on 21 & 22 August at the Empire Theatre. Audition packs with all details will be available early in Term 1, 2026.
- Workshops/Masterclasses. Students who participate are normally at an advanced level and will be nominated by their tutor. A cost is normally associated with participation in an individual masterclass. A permission note will be sent home and any fees will be added to your school account
- Domestic and International Performing Arts Tours. Tours will be held depending on current situations and regulations. The next Performing Arts Tour will be held in 2027.
- AMEB, Trinity, or other Examinations. Students of all ages undertake examinations on instruments, voice, and speech and drama. Students will be entered by their teacher after consultation with parents. Parents will normally pay the examination fee to the teacher who has entered the student
- Other School or Community Concerts. A permission note will be sent home and any fees will be added to your school account

MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS IN 2026

Toowoomba Anglican School encourages students to participate in productions ranging from Shakespeare to mime, contemporary plays, and musicals. The Secondary School produces a biennial play, alternating with a musical, with these productions staged for the public off-campus. The student technical crew supports these performances.

Empire Youth Arts - User Pays Group Drama Class

Empire Theatre Youth Arts Drama

Primary Class (Years 3-6)

Secondary Class (Years 7-12)

Learn about storytelling, performing and expressing yourself creatively with like-minded people. Have fun by learning core performance and creative skills while building your self-confidence and focus through exciting drama activities.

Venue:

Upper Roberts Music Room

Lesson Day:

Tuesdays.

Lesson Times:

3:30pm – 4:30pm – Primary Class (Years 3-6)

4:30pm – 5:30pm – Secondary Class (Years 7-12)

What to Bring:

Comfortable clothing and a water bottle.

Term Dates:

Semester One $200.00

- Term 1: Weeks 2-10 3 February – 31 March
- Term 2: Weeks 2-8 28 April – 9 June

Semester Two $200.00

- Term 3: Weeks 2-10 21 July – 15 September
- Term 4: Weeks 2-8 13 October – 24 November

Fees are added to your school account in Terms 1 and 3. Fees are per semester and are non-refundable. There is no refund for lessons not attended. One term's notification in writing to the Performing Arts Office is required to cease lessons.

Participants will engage in activities with a positive, inclusive, and open mindset, with full understanding of the impact their behaviour and attitude has on the quality of the learning experience for all, and the work achieved. Participants and parents/guardians will be notified if they are in breach of the code, which may lead to exclusion from the class.

Students may like to audition for Empire Junior or Senior IMPACT Ensembles (from 10 years of age), apply for an Empire Theatre Youth Bursary or participate in holiday programs. See the Empire Youth Arts website for further details: https://www.empiretheatre.com.au/youth-arts/

DANCE

Toowoomba Anglican School has an enthusiastic Dance Program. Dance is included in the Curriculum from the earliest years. All Secondary students perform a house dance, with student-lead choreographers for the Festival of Performing Arts in Term 4.

There are after-school dance classes in Modern/Contemporary/Hip Hop style in Junior and Intermediate classes run by JE Dancehouse.

All students in these classes perform at an end of year JEDanceHouse recital at the Empire Theatre. The Primary Dance Troupe (Auditioned Prep-Year 6) develops skills and performs at school events and in eisteddfodau. There is a Secondary Dance Troupe (auditioned) which rehearses at lunchtime and is for advanced students. This Troupe performs more difficult repertoire and has more performance opportunities, including school events, eisteddfodau, and competitions. Auditions for these troupes involve students joining a rehearsal to see how they cope with the choreography and technical demands. Students need to have a background in dance or gymnastics.

JE DanceHouse User Pays Group Dance Classes Junior Class (Prep-Year 2) Intermediate Class (Years 3 - Secondary)

Venue:

Upper Roberts Music Room

Lesson Day:

Mondays

Lesson Times:

3:30pm – 4:15pm – Junior Class (Prep-Year 2)

4:15pm – 5:00pm – Intermediate Class (Year 3 - Secondary)

Uniform and What to Bring:

¾ Black dance pants; Plain white t-shirt; Black slip-on jazz shoes or barefoot. Bring a Water Bottle.

Term Dates:

Semester One $200.00

- Term 1: Weeks 2-10 – 2 February – 30 March
- Term 2: Weeks 2-8 – 27 April – 8 June; no lesson on 4 May in Week 3

Semester Two $200.00

- Term 3: Weeks 2-10 - 20 July – 14 September
- Term 4: Weeks 2-8 - 12 October – 23 November plus Empire Theatre Concert. Details TBA.

JE DanceHouse will send a semester account to families. Fees are non-refundable. There is no refund for lessons not attended. One term's notification in writing to the Director of Performing Arts is required to cease lessons.

Notes: Primary Students in Years 3 to 6 can do homework/read quietly in the foyer of Upper Roberts from 3:20pm while waiting for their class.
Participants will engage in activities with a positive, inclusive, and open mindset, with full understanding of the impact their behaviour and attitude has on the quality of learning experience for all, and the work achieved. Participants and parents/guardian will be notified if they are in breach of the code, which may lead to exclusion from the class.

Students can take many additional dance classes through JE Dancehouse at their studio in Toowoomba. For more information, please see their website: https://jedancehouse.com.au/

COMMUNITY & WIDER INVOLVEMENT

We encourage TAS musicians to give back to their wider community through the Performing Arts. This can take the form of nursing home concerts, involvement in charity concerts and joining with community organisations and other schools.

WHY LEARN THE ARTS?

Links to Articles

Electronic copies of the forms can be found in the Performing Arts Handbook on the TAS App.

If you want your child to be more resilient, get them to join a choir, orchestra or band (theconversation.com)
21 Benefits of Learning a Musical Instrument | Making Music Magazine
The Importance of Drama Education in the Academic Process -
Shout Out UK 25 Benefits of Dance for Kids (and Adults) - Mom
Loves Best
Who Actually Quits Musical Instrument Instruction — Children or Their Parents? - NAfME

Why Should My Child Learn Music?

Music is a wonderful skill for any child, but research shows how learning music can help your child in so many more ways:

- Improved reasoning capacity and problem-solving skills
- Improved mathematics and language performance
- Better memory
- Greater social and team skills

Everyone has musical ability. Every child is born with musical ability, but if it is not tapped into early enough then it can fail to develop. Being 'unmusical' is more likely to be an outcome of poor training or lack of opportunity than it is from lack of ability, and everyone has the capacity to improve their musical skills. Research indicates that all babies are born with perfect pitch. If they don't learn to use their perfect pitch, they then lose it.

Playing music increases memory and reasoning capacity, time management skills and eloquence. Studies have concluded that learning and playing music improved not just academic performance, but also memory, reasoning, working as part of a group, time management and the ability to think in the abstract.

Playing music improves concentration, memory, and self-expression. A two-year study showed how playing music improved children's reading and verbal skills through improving concentration, memory, and self-expression. Other effects learned by the study showed that children learned to like each other more, enjoyed school more and were less stressed during tests, indicating they were better able to handle performance pressure.

Playing music improves the ability to think. Ongoing research demonstrates that learning and playing music builds or modifies neural pathways related to spatial reasoning tasks, which are crucial for higher brain functions like complex mathematics, chess, and science.

Music training improves verbal memory. A study has shown that adults who had music training before the age of 12 years had an improved ability to recall spoken words.

Learning music helps under-performing students to improve. Researchers discovered that children who had been lagging behind in their school performance had caught up with their peers in reading and were ahead of them in mathematics after 7 months of music lessons. The children's classroom attitudes and behaviour ratings had also significantly improved, and after a year of music classes were rated as better than the children who had no additional classes.

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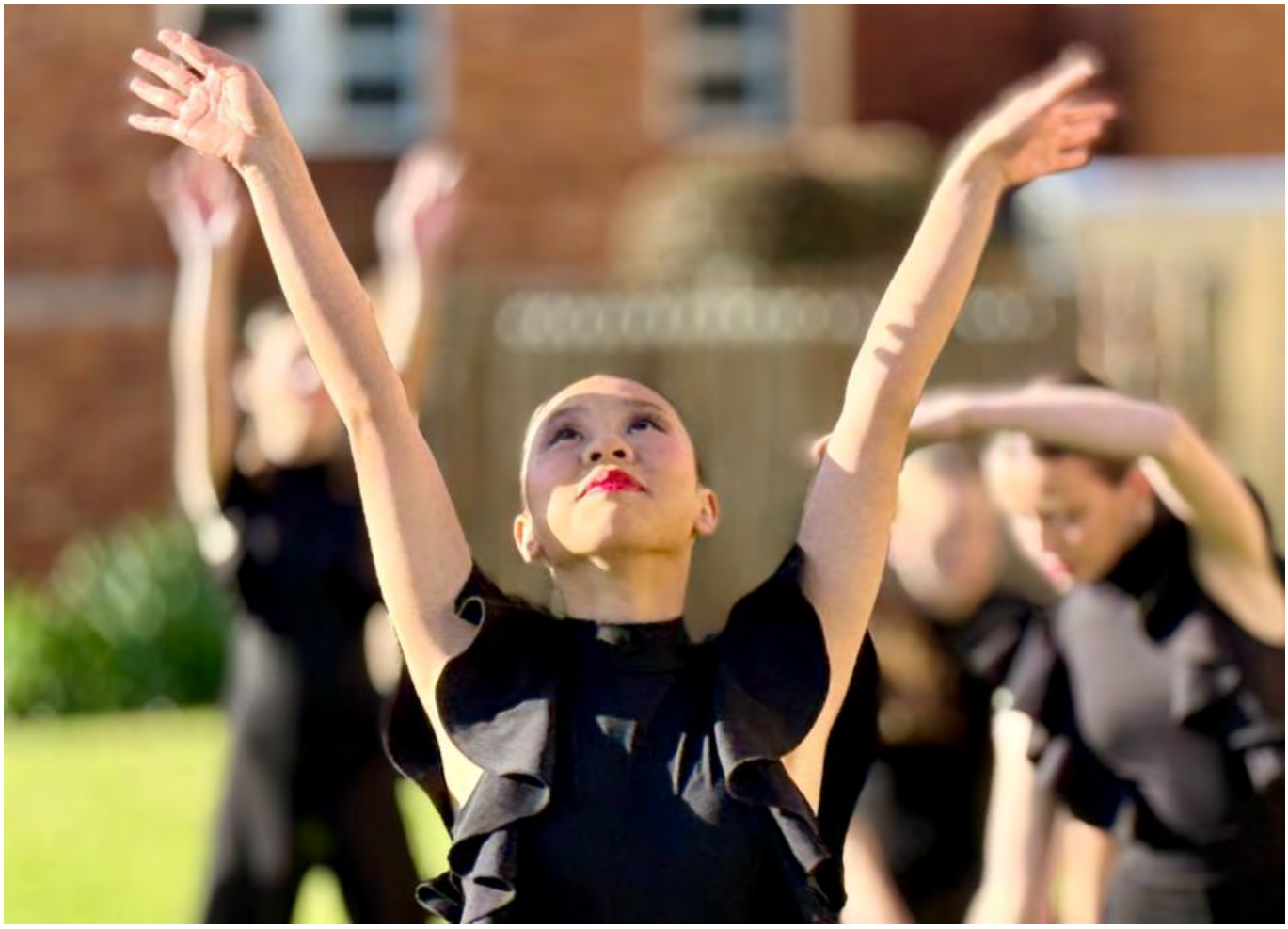
Why Should My Child Learn Drama?

- It will increase your child's self-esteem and confidence and they will learn to be creative and express their creativity in a variety of ways
- Your child will learn the skills of listening, negotiating, and communicating
- Your child will learn empathy and identification. Drama opens new dimensions of emotional experiences. By observing other people's creative processes and products, it can assist you in accessing emotions, along with understanding different ways of interpreting and understanding information. In drama we express ideas, observations, and feelings by making choices about roles and/or characters
- It will increase your child's ability to think; creatively, imaginatively, and divergently. Your child will learn how to think outside the square. Drama teaches students how to become critical consumers, rather than just passive viewers. Students are expected to question and critique their own and others' processes and products
- Your child will develop higher order thinking skills. We can often be limited by our own attitudes and beliefs. Drama requires us to view things from multiple perspectives, inviting us to share control of a narrative between different players. This automatically widens our perspectives, allowing us to synthesise and evaluate information at a much higher level
- Your child will learn to connect not only with themselves, but with other disciplines, cultures, traditions and most importantly, with an audience
- Your child will learn how to work in a team effectively
- Your child will learn how to speak in a more articulate manner, at the same time they will get to put on funny accents, or even sing or talk in gibberish
- Your child will learn how to use their body in ways that make people laugh and cry
- Your child will learn how to put on and prepare for a performance, whether solo, small group or large theatrical performance
- Your child will expand their vocabulary and learn how to memorise things (learning lines requires practice, determination, and advanced memory skills)
- Your child will learn about emotions and how to express them
- Your child will learn how to give feedback and take on board feedback. Drama teaches us how to ask questions that help make sense of learning. The two simple questions; 'what worked' and 'what could be improved next time' encourage students to offer constructive feedback and think critically and positively about their own and others' performances
- Your child will be active. Drama is an active subject that requires you to get up and move
- Your child will learn how to tell a story and communicate with and without using words. Drama encourages us to communicate through different ways, whether it be through movement or speech or even just sounds
- Your child will learn how to focus and concentrate
- Your child will learn how to excel in public speaking/ presenting
- Your child will learn about rhythm and timing
- Your child will learn the rules of improvisation. Improvisation involves craft and skill, inviting students to think imaginatively and on their feet. One of the most important rules in improvisation is that you must accept all offers made by your partner, and not deny them. This allows a scene to be carried out to its full potential
- Your child will learn about discipline, routine, and structure
- Your child will learn how to be persistent and to learn from failures as well as successes

Why Should My Child Learn Dance?

- Aids the development of kinaesthetic intelligence
- Creates opportunities for self-expression and communication within the constraints of the medium of the body
- Teaches the values and skills of creativity, problem solving, risk taking, making judgments in the absence of rules, and higher order thinking skills
- Provides an opportunity for students to recognise that there are multiple solutions to problems
- Fosters an individual's ability to better interpret interpersonal nonverbal communication
- Provides a strong base from which to analyse and make informed judgments about corporeal images
- Learning the dances of other cultures helps students to develop an understanding and respect for them
- Through stimulating all the senses, dance goes beyond verbal language in engaging dancers and promoting the development of multisensory beings
- Provides options to destructive alternatives in a world that is unpredictable and unsafe for children
- Prepares people for careers in dance and other fields
- Enhances an individual's lifelong quality of life
- Helps students develop physical fitness, appreciation of the body, concern for sound health practices, and effective stress management approaches



PERFORMING ARTS TUITION

How to Enrol

To enroll in TAS Performing Arts Tuition, all students are required to complete the Application for Performing Arts Tuition Form (including students who are continuing from the previous year). Places for lessons fill quickly. Electronic copies of the form can be found in the Performing Arts Handbook on the TAS App. 2026 Performing Arts Tuition Form

Overview

A large percentage of students from Years 3 to Secondary have at least one private Performing Arts lesson per week. Lessons may commence in Year 1. Toowoomba Anglican School offers professional tuition by visiting private contractors in Piano, Piano/Voice, Music Theory, Voice, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Drums, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Speech and Drama, Group Dance, and Group Drama. Other instruments may be taught by special arrangement.

Toowoomba Anglican School uses rotating lesson timetables. This means that students will only miss a particular in-class time once every few weeks. Some students have a fixed out of school time, but out of school lesson times have very limited availability. Timetables are posted on the TAS App and the Creative Arts Centre Noticeboard. Any permanent changes to these timetables will be updated on the TAS app where possible. Parents/students are required to give 1 week's notification if a lesson is to be missed, otherwise the full lesson fee will be charged.

Lesson Pricing

Length of Lesson	Price
30-minute group lesson (3 students per group) For students who are continuing from the Year 3 String and Year 4 Band Immersion Programs (may be dependent on numbers of students wanting this option)	**$20.00 per lesson**
30-minute paired lesson (Available only at the discretion of the teacher)	**$29.25 per lesson**
20-minute private lesson (Only available to Primary students who are beginners, or students who are unable to be given a paired lesson)	**$29.25 per lesson**
30-minute private lesson	**$43.50 per lesson**
45-minute private lesson Students playing at a high-level/ doing Exams (on teacher recommendation)	**$65.25 per lesson**
60-minute private lesson Students playing at a high-level doing Exams (on teacher recommendation)	**$87.00 per lesson**
JE DanceHouse Group Dance Classes 45-minute group lesson	**$200 for Semester 1** **$200 for Semester 2**
Empire Theatre Youth Arts Group Drama Classes 60-minute group lesson	**$200 for Semester 1** **$200 for Semester 2**

Performing Arts Tuition Subjects

Piano/Voice/Theory	• Piano (Years 1 – 12, individual lessons only) • Voice/Singing (Years 1 – 12) • Combined Piano and Voice (Years 1 – 3, individual lessons only) • Theory (Years 4 – 12)
Strings	• Violin (Years 1 – 12) • Viola (Years 3 – 12) • Cello (Years 1 – 12) • Double Bass (Years 5 – 12)
Woodwind	• Flute (Years 4 – 12) • Clarinet (Years 4 – 12) • Bass Clarinet (Years 5 – 12) • Alto Saxophone (Years 4 – 12) • Tenor Saxophone (Years 5 – 12) • Baritone Saxophone (Years 5 – 12)
Brass	• Trumpet (Years 4 – 12) • French Horn (Years 5 – 12) • Trombone (Years 4 – 12) • Euphonium (Years 5 – 12) • Tuba (Years 5 – 12)
Guitar/Drums	• Acoustic/Electric Guitar (Years 4 – 12) • Bass Guitar (Years 4 – 12) • Drums (Years 4 – 12, individual lessons only)
Dance/Drama	• Speech and Drama (Years 1 – 12, individual Lessons only) • Private Dance (Years 1-12, subject to teacher approval) • JE DanceHouse Group Dance Classes (Prep – Year 12) • Empire Youth Arts Group Drama Classes (Years 3 – 12)

Hire Instruments

Hire Fees: $130.00 per Semester. This amount is not refundable if a child stops lessons during the semester.

	Hire Instruments available
Strings	• Violin • Viola • Cello • Double Bass
Woodwind	• Clarinet • Bass Clarinet • Alto Saxophone/Tenor Saxophone/Baritone Saxophone
Brass	• Trumpet • French Horn • Trombone • Euphonium • Tuba

- We do not hire pianos, drums, acoustic, electric, or bass guitars.
- Hire Instruments ($130 per Semester) are limited in number and are given to students based on the date of receipt of the Performing Arts Tuition Application Form. Parents are required to pay for any damage to a school hire instrument beyond normal wear and tear.
- It is wise to submit the Performing Arts Tuition Application Form as quickly as possible to be assured of a hire instrument.
- Students who have previously hired an instrument are able to go on a waiting list for an instrument, but preference will go to students who have not previously hired this instrument through the school.

Tuition Details

- Students will advance at a faster rate in an individual lesson.
- A paired or group lesson is only available if there is another child/children of similar age and ability also wanting a paired or group lesson on the same instrument. If not, a 20-minute lesson will be offered.
- Continuing students will be placed with their former teacher unless a request to the contrary is made. Where possible, siblings will be placed with the same teacher as their brother/sister.
- Day students learning the piano must have access to a piano or large keyboard at home.
- ALL Performing Arts lesson fees and hire instrument fees will be charged by the semester, approximately February and July). If your child chooses to stop lessons mid-semester, the lesson and hire fees must be paid for the remainder of the semester.
- Lesson fees are paid by invoice to the private teacher, with the exception of Mrs Nerida Eckert, whose fees will appear on your school fees.
- Fees for Performing Arts Tuition are set according to guidelines set out by the Queensland Music Teachers Association.
- There is no cost for involvement in school choirs and ensembles.
- Please take the time to carefully read our Terms and Conditions for Performing Arts Tuition at the conclusion of the Performing Arts Handbook, which parents must acknowledge by submitting a Performing Arts Tuition Form before lessons can commence.

INSTRUMENT OVERVIEW

Piano

Piano Year 1+

This instrument can be played by all ages from Year 1 to Secondary. Piano is a great starting instrument, as it teaches coordination, how to read both treble and bass clefs, and how to count.

Woodwind

Flute Year 4+

Woodwind Instrument played by blowing across the tone hole (similar to blowing across a bottle). Uses treble clef. Similar fingering to the recorder. Suits quieter students.

Clarinet Year 4+, Bass Clarinet Year 5+

Woodwind Instrument that uses a single reed. Very small hands may have difficulty covering the lower holes. Uses treble clef. Similar to the recorder but not the same fingering. It is quite easy to go from clarinet to saxophone later or play both together when the student is older.

Alto Saxophone Year 4+, Tenor Saxophone Year 5+, Baritone Saxophone Year 5+

Woodwind Instrument that uses a single reed. Must have large hand span from thumb to tip of index finger to reach around the palm keys. Uses treble clef. Uses a strap. Similar fingering to the recorder.

Brass

Trumpet Year 4+

Brass Instrument that makes a sound by pressing the lips together and 'buzzing'. Uses treble clef. Requires straight teeth – no serious overbite. Braces can be uncomfortable on some students. Students can go on to play the euphonium (small tuba), as it has the same fingering. Students require a good sense of pitch. Suits right-handers or ambidextrous students. Suits outgoing students.

French Horn Year 5+

Brass Instrument that makes a sound by pressing the lips together and 'buzzing'. Uses treble clef. Requires straight teeth – no serious overbite. Braces can be uncomfortable on some children. Children require a very good sense of pitch. Suits right-handers or ambidextrous students.

Trombone Year 4+

Brass Instrument that makes a sound by pressing the lips together and 'buzzing'. Uses bass clef. Very small students are not suitable for this instrument because of the arm length needed to operate the slide. Students require a good sense of pitch. Suits right-handers or ambidextrous students. Large but not heavy.

Euphonium/Tuba Year 5+

Brass Instrument that makes a sound by pressing the lips together and 'buzzing'. Tuba uses bass clef. Euphonium uses bass or treble clef. Students require a good sense of pitch. Suits right-handers or ambidextrous students. These are large instruments.

Guitar

Acoustic/Electric Guitar Year 4+

Stringed Instrument that makes a sound by plucking or strumming the strings. Six strings. Uses treble clef and tablature. Students learn single note melodies and chords. Students require finger strength and coordination. Different sizes available.

Bass Guitar Year 4+

As for Acoustic Guitar. Uses bass clef. Four strings. No chords. Single line melody only. Students require long, strong fingers and good coordination.

Percussion

Percussion/Drums Year 4+

Students will learn basic drum techniques using a snare drum and bass drum. Students will move onto the drum kit as their skills develop. They may also get the opportunity to play other percussion instruments in bands/ensembles. Children require very good coordination and a strong sense of beat and rhythm. It is essential that day students have their own drum kit.

String

Violin Year 1+

Stringed Instruments that make a sound by drawing the bow across the strings and plucking. Uses treble clef. Come in many sizes. Students require a very good sense of pitch and good coordination.

Viola Year 3+

Stringed Instruments that make a sound by drawing the bow across the strings and plucking. Uses alto clef. Come in many sizes. Students require a very good sense of pitch and good coordination.

Cello Year 1+

Stringed Instruments that make a sound by drawing the bow across the strings and plucking. Uses bass clef. Come in many sizes. Students require a very good sense of pitch and good coordination.

Double Bass Year 5+

Stringed Instruments that make a sound by drawing the bow across the strings and plucking. Uses bass clef. Students require strong hands, along with a very good sense of pitch and good coordination.

Voice

Voice Year 1+

Singing suits all ages of student, but is best started when students have fluent reading skills and are able to concentrate for the duration of the lesson.

Speech and Drama

Speech and Drama Year 1+

Speech and Drama suits all ages of student, but is best started when students have fluent reading skills and are able to concentrate for the duration of the lesson.

Equipment Requirements for Performing Arts Students

All students will be supplied with a Toowoomba Anglican School Music Record Book. The cost is $8.00 and will be added to your school account. This is the first point of contact between parents and Performing Arts Teachers. Piano students must have a piano or keyboard at home (88 weighted keys).

Instrument	Requirements for students with their own instrument	Requirements for students who will be hiring a school instrument
Flute	Cleaning rod and a washed handkerchief to use as a cleaning swab Key Oil Polishing Cloth (Optional) Display Folder	Washed handkerchief to use as a cleaning swab Display Folder
Clarinet and Saxophone	Box of 10 Reeds of the correct strength Cork Grease Key Oil Cleaning Swab Neck Strap – Saxophone (Clarinet Optional) Thumb Saver – Clarinet (Optional) Saxophone – Polishing Cloth (Optional) Display Folder	Box of 10 Reeds of the correct strength (Size 1 ½ for Beginners, Size 2 for Intermediate Students, Size 2 ½ /3 for Advanced Students) Display Folder Please check reed strength with your child's teacher
Trumpet/French Horn/Euphonium/Tuba	Valve Oil Tuning Slide Grease Mouthpiece Brush – Optional Polishing Cloth – Optional Display Folder	Display Folder
Trombone	Slide Cream Water Spray Bottle Mouthpiece brush – Optional Polishing Cloth – Optional Display Folder	Display Folder
Acoustic Guitar	Spare Set of Strings Spare Picks Display Folder	NO HIRE INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE
Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar	Spare Set of Strings Spare Picks 2 Leads Small Amplifier (Optional) Headphones (Optional) Display Folder	NO HIRE INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE

Instrument	Requirements for students with their own instrument	Requirements for students who will be hiring a school instrument
Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass	Spare set of Strings Rosin Shoulder Rest (Violin/Viola Only Roc Stop (Cello/Double Bass only) Display Folder	Display Folder
Drums	Set of Size 5A or 5B MAPLE Drumsticks Display Folder	Boarders use School Drum Kits during Boarder Music Practice Set of Size 5A or 5B MAPLE Drumsticks Display Folder
Singing/Voice	Display Folder	N/A

GUIDELINES FOR SUITABLE PERFORMING ARTS LESSONS

Kindergarten and Prep

- Toowoomba Anglican School does not offer Individual or Paired Performing Arts lessons to students in Kindergarten or Prep Year during class time
- These students have weekly specialist lessons of Classroom Music, which incorporates music, dance, and drama
- Prep Year students have an additional choir rehearsal each week
- Prep students can enrol and participate in JE DanceHouse Monday Afternoon dance classes

Years 1-3

- Students in Year 1 are only able to have lessons in the Performing Arts after an assessment by their class teacher to see if they are developmentally ready to commence lessons and miss class time to attend lessons
- Children in Years 1 to 3 are generally too small to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument successfully. They may also not have the strength in their hands required to play guitar
- Students in Year 3 participate in the compulsory Year 3 String Immersion Program. More information on this program is on the opposite page

Year 4 - Secondary Students

- Year 4 students are involved in the compulsory Year 4 Band Immersion Program. More information on this program is on the opposite page
- It is never too late to start learning a musical instrument or commence voice/singing or speech and drama lessons
- Students in these parts of the school range from absolute beginners to very advanced students
- TAS has many multi-age musical ensembles to cater for all levels, allowing students to learn at their own pace

Instrumental Immersion Programs

The benefits of learning to play an instrument are well documented and we believe all students should have the opportunity to experience this as part of a well-rounded Toowoomba Anglican School education.

All students in Year 3 take part in the Year 3 String Immersion Program, which involves small group tuition on Violin, Viola, or Cello for one year.

All students in Year 4 take part in the Year 4 Band Immersion Program, which involves small group tuition on Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion, or Bass Guitar for one year.

Year 3 String Immersion Program

- Small group lessons on violin, viola, or cello for the year
- School hire instruments are used
- Small group lessons
- Timetabled into the school day and part of the Year 3 curriculum
- End of Year Concert for parents
- Mark on Report Card, which includes bringing instrument and music to lessons and ability to do regular, short practice sessions each week
- Parents should sign the Toowoomba Anglican School Music Record Book each week as a way of encouraging regular practice habits

Year 4 Band Immersion Program

- Lessons for the year on one of the following: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion, and Bass Guitar
- School hire instruments are used
- Small group lessons
- Timetabled into the school day and part of the Year 4 curriculum
- End of Year Concert for parents
- Mark on Report Card, which includes bringing instrument and music to lessons and ability to do regular, short practice sessions each week
- Parents should sign the Toowoomba Anglican School Music Record Book each week as a way of encouraging regular practice habits

Year 3 String and Year 4 Band Immersion Program Important Points

- Parents are responsible for paying for any damage to an instrument beyond normal wear and tear. This includes accidental damage and loss of the instrument
- Please do not let other members of the family play the instrument, particularly younger siblings
- Instruments are very fragile
- Encourage your child (even if they are making some strange sounds in the beginning)
- Keep the instrument out of the sun and do not leave it in a hot car, as it will damage the instrument
- Clean the instrument regularly
- Students are not permitted to change instruments at any time once they have been allocated an instrument.

Boarders and Performing Arts

Practice is an essential part of learning a musical instrument. Supervised practice for boarders is available for students learning an instrument/voice.

- Students wishing to practice are able to do so in the Connal music rooms according to their boarding timetable.
- Students at a more advanced level, or who play 2 or more instruments, are encouraged to use the Creative Arts Centre or Connal Practice Rooms at other times from Monday to Friday: before school from 7.30am- 8.30am, at lunch time, or after school from 3.30pm-5.00pm. On Fridays, the CAC closes at 3:30pm

All boarders require a library bag (available from clothing shop) to keep their music, diary, and other equipment safe and tidy.

Instruments and music are kept in the boarding house, owing to space constraints.

Boarders need to have their instrument, instrument cases, accessories, library bag and music well-named. Parents should keep a record of the brand and serial number of the instrument. It is also wise to put these instruments on your insurance policy.
New boarders who have previously had music lessons should bring all previous music with them so that their new teacher has a starting point in the first few lessons.

LEADERSHIP AND AWARDS

Student Leadership in Performing Arts

At Toowoomba Anglican School there are several opportunities to be a student leader in the Performing Arts arena:

Primary Performing Arts Captains – one or two Performing Arts Captains from the Year 5 cohort are chosen after an interview process and are announced prior to the end of Term 4. They start their duties in Year 6. These captains assist with all Performing Arts in the Primary Years, including rehearsals, concerts, and other performances. The captains give regular reports and updates on assemblies and compere major concert and Performing Arts events.

Primary Head Choristers of Chapel Choir – one or two Head Choristers from the Year 5 Chapel Choir cohort are chosen and are announced at the annual Chapel Choir Concert in Term 4. These captains start their duties in Year 6 and assist with all Chapel Choir duties, including rehearsals, concerts, and other performances.

Secondary Performing Arts Captains – one or two Performing Arts captains from the Year 10 cohort are chosen after an interview process and are announced prior to the end of Term 4. These captains start their duties in Year 11 and assist with all Performing Arts in the Secondary School, including rehearsals, concerts, and other performances. The captains give regular reports and updates on assemblies, and compere major concert and Performing Arts events.

Secondary Head Choristers of Chapel Choir – one or two Head Choristers from the Year 11 Chapel Choir cohort are chosen and are announced at the annual Chapel Choir Concert in Term 3. These captains start their duties in Year 12 and assist with all Chapel Choir duties, including rehearsals, concerts, and other performances.

Performing Arts Awards

- Late in Term 4, a joint Toowoomba Anglican School Excellence in Sports and Performing Arts Award Night is held in the Millennium Centre
- There are categories for various Performing Arts disciplines and a Most Proficient and Encouragement award are given for each category
- Most Proficient awardees can learn outside the school
- The Encouragement award usually goes to a student who learns at Toowoomba Anglican School, or a student involved in a school ensemble
- Secondary students are able to earn colours and half colours in Performing Arts
- A Conductor's Award is presented for each ensemble and choir
- Students who achieve representative or special honours are recognised
- There are several major individual Performing Arts awards for Primary and Secondary students which are presented at the annual Presentation and Prize Day

CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION

Getting Performing Arts Information & Contacting Staff

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this handbook is correct at the time of printing and will be updated at least annually, however many details change regularly. The sources listed below should be used to check the accuracy of important information.

Director of Performing Arts/Performing Arts Office

The Performing Arts Office should be the first point of contact for all matters relating to Performing Arts at Toowoomba Anglican School. The exception to this is for logistical-type matters (e.g. advising of non- attendance at a rehearsal or performance, rescheduling a lesson), where contact with the conductor or private tutor would be more appropriate. Matters of serious concern will be passed onto the Director of Performing Arts.

The Performing Arts Office, can be reached by phoning (07) 4639 8111 or by emailing performingartsadmin@taschool.qld.edu.au. The office is in the Upper Connal Music Rooms.

The Director of Performing Arts, Mrs Nerida Eckert, can be reached by phoning (07) 4639 8111 or by emailing njeckert@taschool.qld.edu.au. Her office is in CA5 in the Creative Arts Centre.

Communication Methods

Communication with parents and students about matters relating to Performing Arts is an active process that occurs continuously.

The first point of contact between the Performing Arts Department, parents and students is the Toowoomba Anglican School App and/or email.

The TAS App contains Performing Arts information such as:

- Rehearsal schedule for choirs and ensembles
- Lesson timetables – private tutors
- Notices
- Information about upcoming events
- Permission forms for Performing Arts events. Please assist by completing these in a timely manner.
- Representative opportunities

It is imperative that the TAS App, emails, the Parent Lounge, and the Student Café are checked regularly by both students and parents. The annual school magazine contains an overview of the year, formal photographs of major ensembles, and a collection of general arts photographs from the year.

All music students receive a Toowoomba Anglican School Music Record Book. Parents should check and sign this book each week. Students receive a semester report as part of their school report card.

Performing Arts Staff Member Information

Mrs Nerida Eckert *Director of Performing Arts*
Woodwind and Brass teacher
Conductor of Primary and Secondary ensembles and choirs
Classroom Secondary Music Year 9-12
Year 4 Band Immersion Program
njeckert@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday
Office: CA5 (Creative Arts Centre)

Mrs Dianne Will
Performing Arts Office
Performing Arts Administrator
performingartsadmin@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Wednesday & Thursday
(available via email Monday, Tuesday & Friday)
Office: Upper Connal

Mr Steve Beezley
Guitar Teacher
sbeezley@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Wednesday

Mrs Vicki Bravery
String Teacher
Year 3 String Immersion Program
Primary and Secondary String Ensemble Conductor
vickibravery@yahoo.com.au
Days at school: Monday/Friday

Mrs Kate Charles
Secondary Class Drama Teacher
Secondary Drama Club/Play
kcharles@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday

Mrs Melanie Coultas
Piano/Voice Teacher
joyfulmusic.dd@gmail.com
Days at school: Wednesday

Mrs Lauren Crighton
Woodwind Teacher
Year 4 Band Immersion Program
lcrighton@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Wednesday

Mrs Elizabeth Crook
Piano/Voice/Brass teacher Accompanist
Year 4 Band Immersion Program
martliz3@optusnet.com.au
Days at school: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Mrs Laura Davies
Strings/Piano/Voice
ldavies@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday/Wednesday
(currently on leave)

Mrs Jameille Eugarde
Dance Teacher
JE DanceHouse Principal
jedancehouse@gmail.com
Days at school: Monday/Thursday/Friday

Mrs Anne Gralow
Piano/Voice teacher/Accompanist
agralow@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Thursday

Miss Rebekah Harrison
Piano/Voice teacher
agralow@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Tuesday-Thursday

Ms Ashley Joppich
Dance Teacher
ashley.joppich@icloud.com
Days at school: TBA

Mr Julian Lachmund
Strings/Piano/Voice
jlachmund@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Friday

Ms Nancy Macks
Secondary Drama Teacher/Play
nmacks@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday

Mrs Roslyn McIvor
Speech and Drama Teacher
rmcivor@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday

Ms Deborah Meagher
Piano/Voice/Theory teacher
Accompanist
dmeagher@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday

Mr Josh Meppem
Acoustic, Electric & Bass Guitar
joshmep@hotmail.com
Days at school: Tuesday, Wednesday

Ms Rebecca Peake
Secondary Drama Teacher/Play
rpeake@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday

Ms Alison Riethmuller
Piano/Voice Teacher
Accompanist
ariethmuller@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday/Thursday

Mr Harry Schneider
Drum Teacher
Director Percussion Ensemble
harry.schneiderdrums@gmail.com
Days at school: Monday

Mrs Diana Skelton
Class Music: Kindergarten – Year 8
Conductor of Prep- Year 3 Choirs Year 4 Band Immersion Program Director of Primary Musical
dskelton@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday-Friday

Miss Amelia Tranter
Upper Strings
atranter@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday

Mr Flynn Walmsley
Upper Strings/Voice teacher
fwalmsley@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Monday

Jeanette Wedmaier
Empire Youth arts Coordinator
jeanette@empiretheatre.com.au
Days at school: Off-Site

Mr Jonathan Willis
Drum/Woodwind teacher
Year 4 Band Immersion Program
jwillis@taschool.qld.edu.au
Days at school: Thursday/Friday

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my child in the Kindergarten or Prep have Performing Arts Tuition?

No. However, these students have a class music lesson with a specialist music teacher.

Can my child in Year 1 have Performing Arts Tuition?

Yes, but only after an assessment by the Class Teacher, to see if your child is developmentally ready.

Can my child have multiple lessons in the Performing Arts?

Yes, but please do not overload your child with learning too many instruments if they are a beginner, a new boarding student, or have learning difficulties. Remember that children must find time to do adequate practice on each instrument that they play. Performing Arts staff members have the right to refuse to teach a child if they believe they are doing too many Performing Arts lessons. Many students do play two or more instruments very successfully if they have aptitude in this area.

Does my child need more than one lesson per week?

No. One lesson a week is sufficient.

Do I need to own a piano if my day child is having piano lessons?

Yes. Students must have access to a piano or large keyboard with weighted keys at home. Small keyboards are not suitable.

Can my child in Year 1 – 3 learn a Woodwind, Brass or Percussion Instrument or Guitar?

This is not recommended, as children of this age are usually physically too small to play these instruments successfully. Piano is a great instrument to start lessons on.

Can my child have an out-of-school lesson time?

Out-of-school lesson times are very limited and preference will be given to Secondary students or students with severe learning difficulties. Some teachers do not give any out-of-school lesson times, owing to their other commitments. Toowoomba Anglican School runs a rotating lesson policy for all Performing Arts lessons in school time so that students do not miss the same lesson each week. If you feel strongly that your child cannot miss class time, then it would be best to arrange for lessons outside the school.

Can I hire an acoustic, electric, or bass guitar?

No. Students learning these instruments must have their own instrument (with the exception of the Year 4 Band Immersion Program).

My child was in the Year 4 Band Immersion Program/Year 3 String Immersion Program last year. Can I still hire the same instrument this year?

Yes, but preference is given to students who have never hired this instrument before. Students are able to go on a waiting list for hire instruments.

My child wants to give up their instrument and stop lessons. What do I do?

You need to give a term's notice in writing to the Performing Arts Office and pay the full tuition, hire and boarder music practice fees for the remainder of the semester. It is often worth persevering over the 'beginner's hump'. Children often want to give up an instrument when it starts to become challenging; wanting to give up is often only a passing phase and it is worth continuing.

My child in Year 3 or 4 wants to play an instrument. How do I choose?
Please refer to our Year 3 String Immersion Program and Year 4 Band Immersion Program.

Can my child in Year 4 to Secondary learn an instrument if they have never had any music lessons before?
Yes. Students can start learning an instrument at any age, regardless of their musical background. We cater for beginners of all ages.

How does my child get into a band or choir?
Placement for all ensembles is done in the first two weeks of Term 1. All students from Prep to Year 3 are in a Choir. Performing Arts Staff place students in ensembles throughout the year when they are ready. Chapel Choir auditions are held in September of the previous year and students complete a one term probationary period.

If my child has Performing Arts lessons outside the school, can they be part of the Toowoomba Anglican School Ensembles?
Yes, all students at our school have the opportunity to become members of the Toowoomba Anglican School bands, choirs and ensembles appropriate to their level of skill.

My child wants to learn an instrument, but we don't know which one would be best for them. We can test your child to find a suitable instrument. The testing takes about 15 minutes. Please contact the Director of Performing Arts for an appointment on njeckert@taschool.qld.edu.au.

Can my boarder child do additional practice if they are learning two instruments?
Yes. The Creative Arts Centre and Connal music rooms are open from 7.30am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday (on Fridays, the CAC closes at 3:30pm). Students are able to practice their instrument before and after school and at lunchtimes, if a room is free. Boarding has allocated days/times after school for practice.

Last year, my child learnt the saxophone. Can they change to another instrument this year? Yes, but this is not recommended, as they will be starting from scratch on a new instrument. Many children want to give up an instrument as soon as it becomes challenging or because their friend is playing another instrument. It is often worth persevering on an instrument unless the Performing Arts teacher recommends otherwise. Some children may want to change to an instrument that their friend plays, but this instrument may not physically suit them.

What brand of instrument should I buy?
Please contact your child's music teacher. Do not buy coloured woodwind, brass, or string instruments. Be wary of buying cheap instruments off the internet. Do not buy an instrument from Aldi, Bunnings or Amazon.

My child missed their Performing Arts lesson because they forgot to go. Can I get a refund or a make-up lesson?

No. The only time lessons are refunded or made up is if the teacher is absent or if sufficient notice (1 week) is given of non-attendance by the student/parent. Details are in the Performing Arts Terms and Conditions.

Do I need to buy music and accessories?

Yes. Your child's Performing Arts teacher will ask you to buy sheet music and accessories, such as reeds, valve oil etc. A 'Toowoomba Anglican School Music Practice Diary' is supplied by the school and $8.00 is charged to your account. It is recommended that Boarding students have a large supply of reeds if they play Clarinet/Saxophone. The school does not supply accessories to students.

How do I contact my child's Performing Arts Teacher?

The first point of contact between parents and teachers should be email. Written communication is provided through your child's Toowoomba Anglican School Music Record Book. Performing Arts teachers will have their contact details on your first account. Teachers can also be contacted through the Performing Arts Office on performingartsadmin@taschool.qld.edu.au

My child is a new boarder and I want them to settle in before commencing lessons. Is this possible?

This is possible, but places for lessons do fill very quickly and your child may be placed on a waiting list if they do not enrol for lessons at the start of the year. Lesson places cannot be held.

Is it possible to change Performing Arts Teachers mid-year?

This is possible if there is another teacher who teaches the same instrument and they have a suitable lesson place available. It is recommended that this is discussed with the Director of Performing Arts.

PERFORMING ARTS TUITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Tuition will be given by the Semester, in consecutive weeks as set down by Toowoomba Anglican School.
2. Enrolment in all Performing Arts lessons is for the semester. If your child chooses to stop lessons mid- semester, then lesson and hire fees are not refundable.
3. Lessons can take the form of:

a. Private lessons for 20, 30, 45 and 60 minutes

- 20-minute lessons are only available to Primary students who are beginners, or students who are unable to be given a paired lesson
- 45- and 60-minute lessons are only available for students playing at a high-level doing Exams, with teacher recommendation required prior to enrolment

b. Paired or group lessons for 30 minutes

- A paired lesson is only available if there is another child of similar age and ability also wanting a paired lesson on the same instrument. (This option is not available for all classes)
- Group lessons are for students who are continuing from the Year 3 String Immersion and Year 4 Band Immersion Programs.

c. Dance group lesson for 45 minutes

d. Empire Drama group lesson for 60 minutes

4. Lesson fees are paid by invoice to the private teacher, with the exception of Mrs Nerida Eckert, whose fees will appear on your school fees. Failure to make payment by the due date will result in suspension of lessons across all areas of the Performing Arts and possible loss of lesson placement.
5. Payment for JE Dancehouse and Empire Youth Arts Drama classes are made upfront at the time of enrolment.
6. If a student has a special activity on his/her scheduled lesson time, the teacher must be given at least one (1) week's notification by the student/parent if a makeup lesson is required.
7. Lessons missed through pupil non-attendance (for any reason) will be charged for and will not be rescheduled. Lessons cancelled by the teacher will be carried forward or refunded. Payment is made for a teacher's time.
8. To discontinue tuition, a Term's notice in writing must be given to the Performing Arts Office (2 Campbell Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350 or performingartsadmin@taschool.qld.edu.au). The remaining portion of Tuition Fees and Hire Fees are not refundable.
9. Performing Arts teachers are within their rights to stop lessons at any time due to non-payment of fees, regular non-attendance at lessons, or a breach of the Terms and Conditions.
10. Parents agree to take responsibility for any damage to any hire instrument that may occur, beyond everyday wear and tear. A fee of $130.00 per semester per instrument is added to a student's school account in order to maintain the instrument. This amount is not refundable if a child stops lessons during the semester. Pianos/keyboards are not available for hire.
11. Some physical contact with students may be necessary to correct stance, fingering, breathing etc.
12. A Music Diary fee of $8.00 will be added to a student's school account at the beginning of each year, or at the commencement of tuition for students who start partway through a year. This amount is not refundable if a child stops lessons during the semester.
13. It will be assumed upon submission of a Performing Arts Tuition Form that these conditions have been agreed to unless otherwise notified.

Student Responsibilities

- Attend all Performing Arts lessons
- Display evidence of regular and adequate practice, as advised by their teacher, using the Practice Book provided
- Join appropriate school ensembles relevant to their Performing Arts lessons
- Attend all rehearsals and performances and practice ensemble music regularly
- Clean and maintain their instruments

Parent Responsibilities

- Support home practice and sign the Practice Book provided
- Ensure their child's attendance at Performing Arts lessons
- Notify the Performing Arts teacher of any known absences
- Notify the Performing Arts Office or Conductor of any absences from rehearsals
- Be responsible for the care and maintenance of hire instruments
- Supply students with necessary music and accessories, as requested by the Performing Arts teacher
- Pay fees promptly

What to do if a student misses a Paid Lesson

If a student has a special activity on his/her scheduled lesson time, the teacher must be given at least a week's notification by the student/parent. Lessons missed through pupil non-attendance (for any reason) will be charged for and will not be rescheduled. Lessons cancelled by the teacher will be carried forward or refunded. Payment is made for a teacher's time. If a student misses more than 2 consecutive lessons, parents and house parents will be notified by the teacher. Performing Arts teachers are within their rights to stop lessons at any time due to non-payment of fees, regular non-attendance at lessons, or a breach of the Terms and Conditions.

What to do if a student wishes to Cancel Private Tuition

Enrolment in all Performing Arts lessons is a minimum of 1 semester. If your child chooses to stop lessons mid- semester, then lesson, boarder music, and hire fees are not refundable.

To discontinue tuition, a Term's notice in writing must be given to the Performing Arts Office (2 Campbell Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350, or performingartsadmin@taschool.qld.edu.au). The remaining portion of Tuition Fees and Hire Fees are not refundable.

The Performing Arts Department reserves the right to withdraw tuition if the above requirements are not met.

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