



# **NNPS Band Program Handbook 2024**



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Narrabeen North Public School's Band Program for 2024.

The Narrabeen North Public School Band Program has developed over a number of years into a fun and exciting program designed to ensure children participating receive an enjoyable and rewarding musical experience.

Being part of a band can provide children with skills that will last a lifetime. In addition to the obvious musical benefits, children involved in playing an instrument in a band programme benefit socially, physically and often academically. Children learn valuable team skills, and above all have fun!

This information booklet is designed to provide you with an overview of our band program.

## AIM

The NNPS Band Program offers students the opportunity to play a musical instrument while:

- enjoying a positive group learning experience;
- developing an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of musical styles;
- encouraging social interaction, co-operation and friendship with fellow students of various ages; and
- encouraging a sense of responsibility and commitment to themselves, the school and the band/ensemble.

## BENEFITS OF CHILDREN LEARNING MUSIC

Children who learn music generally do better at a range of subjects including maths, science, arts and language. They also:

- learn there are rewards from hard work, practice and discipline;
- develop enhanced concentration and focus as well as creative thinking and problem solving skills;
- experience health and wellbeing benefits as well as improvements to stamina and fine motor skills;
- develop teamwork, shared goals and the opportunity to enhance leadership skills;
- develop active listening skills which is beneficial in a range of things from participating in conversations to building more satisfying friendships; and
- explore emotions through music, which may help them better understand who they are.



## **BANDS IN 2024**

The Band Program is open to children in Years 3-6 and comprises a Training Band, Concert Band and Performance Band. Children in Year 2 have the opportunity to audition during Term 4 to then join the Training Band when they are in Year 3.

As a general rule, children will spend their first year in the Training Band, their second year in the Concert Band and the remaining years moving into the Performance Band. Children who are new to the school will be assessed to determine which band is the most suitable.

### **TRAINING BAND**

The Training Band is comprised of children who are new to their instruments. Children generally spend the first year in the Training Band learning important skills on their instruments and learning how to be part of a band. Students must have lessons with a private tutor before they can commence in the Training Band. There are two rehearsals a week - Monday lunchtime and Wednesday morning 7.45am.

### **CONCERT BAND**

The Concert Band is comprised predominantly of Year 4 children, or those who are in their second year of playing or have previously played an instrument outside of school. Children in this band will be improving their skills and learning more technical musical pieces. These children will perform regularly at school and community events. There are two rehearsals a week - Monday morning 7.45am and Wednesday lunchtime.

### **PERFORMANCE BAND**

The Performance Band is predominantly Years 5 & 6 children who are in their third or fourth year of playing. Children in this band will be exposed to more challenging repertoire and will perform regularly at school and community events. The Performance Band have two rehearsals a week - 3pm Tuesday afternoon and 7.45am Thursday mornings.

## **BAND INSTRUMENTS**

The following instruments are played in the bands:

#### **WOODWIND**

Clarinet

Flute

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Bass Clarinet

#### **BRASS**

Euphonium

Trombone

Trumpet

French Horn

#### **OTHER/PERCUSSION**

Bass Guitar

Percussion

Drums

Mallet Percussion



## HIRE OF BAND INSTRUMENTS

Current and aspiring members of the Training and Performance Bands may, subject to availability, hire an instrument. These instruments have been purchased or hired by the Band Committee through fundraising or band program fees.

The following instruments may be available to hire:

- Flutes
- Clarinets
- Saxophone tenor and alto
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Bass Guitar

If you hire an instrument the following conditions apply: (in addition to hire agreement attached)

- The student (and parent) will be shown how to take out, hold, pack away and clean the instrument at the time of collection. Your private instrument tutor should also be requested to show you again during the first lesson.
- The instrument remains the property of the NNPS P&C and is for the sole use of the student.
- The instrument is not insured except when on school premises. Parents are therefore encouraged to include the instrument in their Home and Contents Insurance.
- If the instrument requires repair, the hirer agrees to contact the NNPS Band Program Instrument Registrar who will organise the repairs through our preferred repairer.
- The Band Committee will pay for repairs caused by reasonable wear and tear. Repairs required due to misuse or careless handling will be paid for by the hirer.
- If the instrument is lost, stolen or damaged the hirer agrees to pay the NNPS P&C its agreed replacement value.
- Fees are paid IN ADVANCE per SEMESTER. Instrument hire will not be available in subsequent semesters if payments are in arrears.
- Instruments must be returned within one week of leaving the program. Hire fees are per semester and NO REFUNDS are available for early return. Please contact the committee to arrange handover.
- All instruments must be returned at the end of Term for servicing if needed.



## FEES 2024

The NNPS Band and Music Program is self-funding. Fees received (supplemented by fundraising activities) must cover the Band Director's fees, instrument purchases, hire, maintenance and repairs, equipment purchases and repairs, sheet music and music books, competition entrance fees, contribution to Band Camp expenses, software and bookkeeping fees. (A small bookkeeping fee is payable each month so the Band Program's accounts can be integrated and audited with the P&C's other operating accounts.)

The Creative Kids Voucher (CKV) provided by Service NSW can now be used as part payment towards Narrabeen North Band Program semester fees. Parents and carers can apply for a voucher and claim up to \$100 per student enrolled in the music program at NNPS, per calendar year. Please see details at the end of the handbook to claim your CKV.

The fees for 2024, which are **payable in advance per semester**, are:

Training Band	\$200 per semester
Concert Band	\$200 per semester
Performance Band	\$200 per semester
Band Instrument Hire	\$154 (inc GST) per semester
Percussion Usage	\$55 (inc GST) per semester
Training Band Book	\$25 (one time purchase)

*(Please be aware that any debt incurred in any line of P&C business results in your family being unable to utilise other P&C businesses. This includes Band, OOSH, Vacation Care and any potential future P&C social events eg. discos. Should you choose not to pay your outstanding debt a debt collection process may commence.)*

## TUTOR AND PRIVATE LESSONS

In addition to their weekly band rehearsals, all students involved in the band program must undertake a **weekly private lesson with a quality tutor**. This is to ensure that children learn to play their instrument with correct technique, and also to ensure all students get the most out of their band rehearsals.

Narrabeen North offers on-site tutoring for certain instruments, depending on tutor availability. These tutors are vetted by our Band Director to ensure they hold appropriate qualifications and experience, and they are fully insured and have complied with relevant 'Working With Children' checks. These tutors are also linked in to the Band Program and many tutor at our annual Band Camp.

As an alternative, parents may prefer to choose their own tutor. A tutor list is published annually by the Band Committee and copies are distributed at the Band Information & Registration Session and by email at the beginning of each year. Tutors on this list have also been vetted for qualifications and experience and these tutors typically operate at home studios. Prices for lessons vary according to the experience and qualifications of each tutor.



## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is an important part of our program and we encourage and rely on parent involvement. Cake stalls and other activities are organised throughout the year so that the music program can add to its instrument base and contribute to other expenses which are not covered by band fees such as event fees, trip fees, etc.

## HOME PRACTICE

Regular home practice is the key to successful development and progress on a musical instrument, and also to gain maximum enjoyment from the activity. Sometimes children need a little encouragement to develop good practice habits. Parents can assist their children in developing good practice habits by:

- Providing a quiet practice area and a music stand;
- Listening to their practice as often as possible;
- Reminding their child of practice time;
- Encouraging their child to perform for others when the opportunity arises at home or for relatives;
- Sitting in on the early private music lessons to get a feel for the instrument and how to clean and assemble it; and
- Ensuring the child arrives to all band rehearsals, private lessons and performances on time.

## REHEARSALS AND BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Each band has two rehearsals weekly in the music room.

Students should always bring their instrument, folder of music, tutor book, a pencil and water bottle, in their band bag.

Rehearsal time is very important and children are expected to attend all rehearsals. A roll will be taken, and children or parents should inform the Band Coordinator if they will be absent from a rehearsal. In the case of consistent lateness or absenteeism parents/guardians will be contacted.

The band is like any other team – it needs all its members in order to function successfully. Children joining the band are expected to commit themselves for a full year, and to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Rehearsals run smoothly and effectively so long as all children are working as a team and being courteous and respectful of the Band Director and each other.



Children are expected to:

- Arrive on time to rehearsal (with time to help set up);
- Help set up chairs and stands;
- Be silent when the Band Director is speaking;
- Sit quietly when the Band Director is working with other instrument sections;
- Be courteous and co-operate with directions from the Band Director and supervising parents; and
- Pack away chairs and stands at the end of rehearsal.

The Band Director may ask a child who isn't following reasonable instructions to leave the rehearsal and sit with a parent supervisor.

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE 2024

GROUP	DAY/TIME	VENUE	WHAT TO BRING
Training Band	Monday: Lunchtime Wednesday: 7.45 – 8.50am	Band Room	Instrument Pencil and water bottle
Concert Band	Monday: 7.45 – 8.50am Wednesday: Lunchtime	Band Room	Recently tuned instrument Music book / folder
Performance Band	Tuesday: 3.00 - 4.10pm Thursday: 7.45 – 8.50am	Band Room	

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Being a member of a band or ensemble is like being part of a sporting team. Children are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances so the child and their band are able to achieve their best performance.

If a child cannot attend due to illness, please advise the:

Band Coordinator - Rachel Briggs by email [nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com)

If a one-off important commitment prevents attendance please advise the Band Director/Band Coordinator as soon as possible, **before** the rehearsal or performance.



## MUSIC BOOKS AND SHEET MUSIC

Band members will be provided with music from time to time. This music has been purchased by and remains the property of the NNPS P&C.

## BAND CAMP 2024: MONDAY, 27 – TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024

This year's camp will be held at the Collaroy Centre (22 Homestead Ave, Collaroy) from Monday 27th to Tuesday 28th May 2024. The camp concludes with a concert which all parents are invited to attend.

It is a residential course (children have the option to sleep at the Collaroy Centre or attend as day students) run by the Band Director, extra instrument-specific tutors and assisting Committee members. While it comprises two days of intensive rehearsals and tutorials, it's not all hard work. There are plenty of social and sporting activities, great food to enjoy and a movie to watch at night. The children's progress is phenomenal! All participants in the Music Program are encouraged to attend.

## COMMUNICATION AND CONDITIONS

Email is the main method of communication between the Band Committee and parents. To ensure timely communication, and to reduce the Committee's administrative workload, parents must:

- make [nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com) email contacts so you receive messages and invoices without delay.
- check and respond to emails regularly (**a valid email address is required** for your child to participate in the program).
- notify [nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com) immediately of any change to your email address or mobile no.
- pay fees before commencement of Band per semester, with your invoice number.
- The Creative Kids Voucher (CKV) provided by Service NSW can now be used as part payment towards Narrabeen North Band Program semester fees. Parents and carers can apply for a voucher and claim up to \$100 per student enrolled in the music program at NNPS, per calendar year. Please see details at the end of the handbook to claim your CKV.
- advise [nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com) if you anticipate not being able to pay on time and proposing an alternative payment schedule, which is then adhered to.
- note that your child may be asked to withdraw from the program until fees are paid in full.
- note that invoices cannot be split between co-parents.
- recognise that the onus is on each child to remember to attend their lesson/rehearsal. While public address announcements are made and teachers attempt to direct children to their music classes, the Committee cannot be held responsible if lessons are missed.





## OTHER COSTS

When considering the full cost of your child joining the Band Program please bear in mind that you may also be required to pay for:

- 30 minutes of private tuition for at least 40 weeks per year. Tutors charge between approximately \$30 - \$45 per half hour.
- Instrument purchase or hire and spare reed for reed instruments.
- Purchase of a music stand.
- Band Camp – Monday, 27 and Tuesday, 28 May 2024 (cost approximately \$250).

## KEY CONTACTS

### BAND DIRECTOR

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic, enthusiastic and experienced Band Director in Ms Janella Fyfe.

### SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Our teacher liaison Jane Cantrill is committed to bringing music into our school for our children. She is an integral part of ensuring the program runs smoothly.

### NNPS BAND COORDINATOR

Our behind the scenes organiser is Rachel Briggs, keeping details updated and organising events.

<b>BAND DIRECTOR:</b>	Janella Fyfe
<b>BAND COORDINATOR:</b>	Rachel Briggs <a href="mailto:nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com">nnpsbandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com</a>
<b>TEACHER LIAISON:</b>	Jane Cantrill (Teacher)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1:	Semester 1 Invoices are issued, <i>payment due before Band rehearsals commence</i>
Term 1:	Performance and Concert Band rehearsals commence
Term 1:	Training Band rehearsals commence normally around week 5
Term 2:	Band Camp 27 - 28 May 2024
Term 2 Week 10:	Semester 2 Invoices issued, <i>payment due before the start of Term 3</i>



All Bands will have the opportunity to perform at school and externally throughout the year. Please read the School Newsletter regularly and view or download the latest version of the calendar from <http://www.narranorth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>. Also refer to the Save the Date document sent via email from the Band Committee.

If you have any questions please contact the Band Coordinator on:

[npspandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:npspandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com)



## USING THE CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER FOR NNPS BAND PROGRAM FEES

The Creative Kids voucher can now be used as part payment towards Narrabeen North Band Program semester fees.

Parents and carers can apply for a voucher and claim up to \$100 per student enrolled in school, per calendar year.

**Narrabeen North Public School P&C Association** is now a registered activity provider for Music.

To apply for a voucher please go to:

<https://my.service.nsw.gov.au/MyServiceNSW/CreativeKidsSearchProvider>

Please pay band semester fees less your Creative Kids voucher into Narrabeen North P&C Music Account, details are on your invoice.

Please forward your voucher details as well as the **student's Date of Birth** to both email addresses below:

[npspandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:npspandc.bandcoordinator@gmail.com)

[npspandc.ad@gmail.com](mailto:npspandc.ad@gmail.com)

Please contact us if you have any queries.