



**ERSKINEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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## **ERSKINEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND INFORMATION HANDBOOK - 2025**

The Band Program at Erskineville Public School provides an opportunity for all students in Years 3 to 6 to experience the world of making music as an ensemble. The program has developed into an exciting chance for children to participate in 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 playing an instrument in a band benefit socially, physically and often academically. Children learn valuable team skills, and above all, have fun!

Just a few of the benefits for children are:

- *learning music improves concentration and memory,*
- *music provides an avenue for creativity and self-expression,*
- *children can meet new friends in different year levels,*
- *children learn self-discipline, organisation, and how to cooperate with others,*
- *working towards a common goal as a team, improving self-esteem and confidence.*

This information booklet is designed to provide you with an overview of our Band Program. Before joining the school band, parents and children should be aware of the associated commitments, responsibilities and costs.

Understanding how the program works, the expectations of band membership and your role in the process, will help us to maintain our high standards and make participation in the band an enjoyable experience for all. Please refer to this booklet should you be unsure of any of the operational procedures of the band program.

## Contacts

### **Ryley Gillen - Band Director**

Once your child is registered in the Band Program, all queries should be directed to Ryley via the Erko Band email address: [erkomuso@gmail.com](mailto:erkomuso@gmail.com)

### **Micaela Cecire - Band Coordinator**

All other enquiries should be directed to Micaela via the school office email address: [erskinevil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:erskinevil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

## Our Ensembles

### **Training Band**

Training Band is our beginner band and involves mostly students in their first year of band. Anyone in Year 3 and above can join. Students are matched to an instrument based on their instrument preferences, instrument availability and also their observed suitability towards particular instrument types.

All Training Band students are usually beginners on their instruments and there is no prerequisite for musical training. It provides a great opportunity for the students to become competent on their instruments in an environment that is both supportive and fun. Students may remain in the Training Band for more than one year if they are unable to acquire the prerequisite skills of the Intermediate Band. Students successful in gaining entry to the Training Band are expected to maintain a regular practice regime, be prompt to rehearsals, and behave appropriately at all times.

### **Intermediate Band**

Intermediate Band is comprised of students with at least one year of experience on their band instrument. Students may spend anywhere between 1-3 years in this ensemble. Students successful in gaining entry to the Intermediate Band are expected to maintain a regular practice regime, be prompt to rehearsals, and behave appropriately at all times.

### **Concert Band**

Concert Band is our flagship performing ensemble. It consists of students who are proficient on their instrument and committed to further improvement. Entry to the Concert Band is by audition in Term 4. Tutors will supply Intermediate Band students with advanced notice of what they must be able to do to pass this audition. Students successful in gaining entry to the Concert Band are expected to maintain a regular practice regime, be prompt to rehearsals, and behave appropriately at all times. Participants who are continually unable to meet these expectations may be moved to Intermediate Band.

# Program Structure

There are two elements that make up the Band Program. These are:

- **Private instrument lessons**
- **Weekly rehearsals**

All students involved in the band program must undertake one private instrument lesson each week (30 minutes) and one whole band rehearsal each week (there are usually 10 weeks per school term).

## Private Instrument Lessons

Private instrument lessons allow one-on-one attention for your child to learn correct technique and provide individual-specific attention to learning, in addition to having greater accountability for maintaining a regular practise routine and having the ability to pursue individual interests beyond band repertoire.

Students must partake in private lessons with an instrument tutor and these lessons must be arranged directly between the parent/carer and the tutor. All necessary details are listed below.

Private instrument lessons can be done on-site at Erskineville PS before or after school. These on-site lessons are subject to availability of classrooms and tutors, and morning lessons tend to fill up quickly. Alternatively, you may source your own tutor for your child's private instrument lessons at a time and location convenient to you.

On-site private lessons take place in 30-minute blocks between 7:50-8:50am and 3:10–5:40pm throughout the week. All administrative queries, including fees and requesting changing lesson times will need to be done directly through the tutor. Lesson rooms and times will be advised at the beginning of Term 1 2025.

If your child attends after school care on-site, please note that tutors **will** be able to sign students in and out while they are at after school care.

Instrument	Tutor	Email	Phone
Saxophone/ Clarinet	Miriam Alperovich	<a href="mailto:miriamdvorah@gmail.com">miriamdvorah@gmail.com</a>	0411729713
	Alex Jasprizza	<a href="mailto:alex.jasprizza@gmail.com">alex.jasprizza@gmail.com</a>	0430 723 595
Low Brass	Cailey Soon	<a href="mailto:caileyme@gmail.com">caileyme@gmail.com</a>	0478838551
Trumpet	Sam Kable	<a href="mailto:samkable@icloud.com">samkable@icloud.com</a>	0484000702

<b>Drums</b>	Freya Steele	<a href="mailto:freyasteele28@gmail.com">freyasteele28@gmail.com</a>	0467058819
	Alex Young	<a href="mailto:alexyoungdrums@hotmail.com">alexyoungdrums@hotmail.com</a>	0403151175
<b>Flute</b>	Dana Alison	<a href="mailto:danamalison@hotmail.com">danamalison@hotmail.com</a>	0405170177
	Samantha O'Toole	<a href="mailto:samjadeotoole@gmail.com">samjadeotoole@gmail.com</a>	0420699280

## Rehearsals

Whole band rehearsals are where children will learn to play as part of a larger ensemble.

It is imperative that students arrive on time for rehearsals. Students who arrive late miss out on important warm-up activities that are fundamental to the mastery of their instrument. There is also an expectation that students behave in accordance with school rules during rehearsals.

All band members are part of a team and are expected to commit to attending all rehearsals and performances. If your child is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance, please advise Ryley or the school as soon as possible.

Full Band rehearsals take place in the Lucy Woodcock Hall.

*Please note, as of 2024, Training Band will rehearse before school from 8-8:50am, while both Intermediate & Concert Bands will rehearse straight after school in the Lucy Woodcock Hall.*

**Training Band - Tuesday 8-8:50am**  
**Intermediate Band - Wednesday 8-8.50-8:50am**  
**Concert Band - Thursday 8-8:50am**

Important Band dates are communicated via the Music Database and Enews. Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date to ensure you receive important communication.

# Fees

## Rehearsal Fees

Rehearsal fees cost **\$400 annually**. This is to cover the cost of the conductors, administrative costs, band equipment and extra costs involved in having conductors attend performances and auditions.

Rehearsal fees are to be paid upfront each semester, ie. twice a year. Fees for Semester 1 are due by the end week 2, Term 1 and fees for Semester 2 are due by the end of the week 2, Term 3. Invoices will be issued by the Band Coordinator and private instrument lesson fees will be paid directly to your tutor.

These fees are essential to the continuation and success of the program. Payment of fees is compulsory, and students may not attend rehearsals until fees are paid in full. If you are unable to pay band fees on time, please contact the band program coordinator to make alternative arrangements.

If a student no-longer wishes to continue in the band program for any reason they may only do so at the end of each semester. There will be no refunds for students/families who decide to leave mid-semester.

The Band program is externally managed and as such, parents and carers are able to use the NSW Creative Kids vouchers. For more information, please visit the Creative Kids website <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-creative-kids-voucher>

## Private Lesson Fees

The school does not collect tutorial fees. Instead, fees for private lessons will be paid directly to your child's tutor at their set rate. A 30 minute lesson will usually cost around \$40-\$50, but please note that this is not a guaranteed cost. This will need to be discussed directly with your tutor.

# Band Starter Pack

The Band Starter Pack is issued at the commencement of your child's time in Band and costs **\$75**.

From 2025, this pack will include:

- Band bag
- Band shirt (*shirt size to be stipulated in enrolment form*)
- Instrument book
- Photocopying throughout Band
- Training Band Practice Booklet

## Communication

Ryley is the primary source of communication regarding the Band Program. This includes notification of events, updates, distribution of sheet music and general information.

When you complete the enrolment form, your email address will be collected and added to the Band Program email database. If your email changes during your child's Band enrolment, please ensure you inform Ryley as soon as possible. The school is not able or responsible for updating your email address or contact details with the Band Program.

The contact email address is: [erkomuso@gmail.com](mailto:erkomuso@gmail.com)

## Instrument Hire

All Band instruments will need to be sourced by families whether they are purchased, hired or borrowed. Instrument hire is not provided by the school or Band Program.

If you would like to hire an instrument, we recommend hiring through the Arts Unit, which is part of the Department of Education and conveniently located in Lewisham.

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/instrument-hire>

From the Arts Unit instrument hire policy:

*A hire agreement must be signed, before items are collected from Arts Unit premises. The hirer is responsible for the collection and return of all equipment, being aware of the size, shape and weight of the items to be moved.*

*The hirer is responsible for care and maintenance of instruments whilst on loan.*

## Commitment & Expectations

Once children have committed to playing in the band, they must honour that commitment throughout the school year. The band is like any other team – it needs all its members to contribute for it function successfully.

Please ensure your child understands that in addition to attending an instrument lesson and rehearsal each week, there is an expectation that they will practise their instrument throughout the week to refine what they have learned in lessons. Practise schedules will be recommended by your child's tutor.

It is important that students arrive at rehearsals and instrument lessons on time. On-site instrument lessons are carefully planned and timed, so if you are late your lesson will be accordingly shorter.

## **Behaviour Contract**

Students participating in the Band Program must uphold the school rules and values during instrument lessons, band rehearsals and when attending performances, and as such all Band students are required to sign and return a copy of the Band Behaviour Contract at the beginning of the year.

Disruptive behaviour detracts from the experience of all band members and can lead to bands progressing slower than desirable. Misbehaviour will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action in accordance with the Band Behaviour Agreement and school Behaviour Policy. Conductors may also choose to issue time-outs to students who are disrupting rehearsals. Students who continue to disrupt band tutorials and rehearsals may not be considered for promotion to Intermediate or Concert band, or may be asked to leave the program.

The Band Behaviour Agreement will be distributed to all Band students at the beginning of the school year. Please read it carefully with your child, and have them sign it before returning it to your child's band conductor.

## **Performance Opportunities**

Throughout the year there are a number of performance opportunities for our school bands. Traditionally, an afternoon school concert is held at the end of term to showcase the progress of all three of our school bands, and at the very end of the school year our three bands also perform at the annual Cadenza evening performance night.

In the past we have entered and participated in competitions like BandFest, however since the pandemic, BandFest hasn't resumed so we will be looking for alternative competitions for our students to participate in. These competitions & events are a great opportunity for students to work towards a shared goal, see performances from other school bands, perform in an unfamiliar, professional setting and to an unknown audience.