



Aberfoyle Park
High School

MUSIC
PROGRAM

Aberfoyle Park High School has one of the most extensive music programs outside the specialist interest music centres in the public school system. Our music program has been a proud and successful part of the school community since its beginning, providing students with enriching opportunities to perform, grow, and achieve excellence in the arts.

We offer a broad music curriculum, which exposes students to many styles of music through a strong performance-based program. We currently have approximately 204 music program students performing across years 7 to 12.

Studying music helps students build essential life skills like creativity, confidence, resilience, and self-discipline. It also supports their growth in organisation, time management, teamwork, communication, and leadership.

These skills are valuable not just in school, but also in everyday life and future work. Through music, students learn to collaborate, solve problems creatively, and appreciate the world around them in new ways.

Students are exposed to music in the classroom setting, and many regularly commit to co-curricular ensembles that extend their learning, including:

- concert band
- big band
- choir
- chamber ensemble
- percussion ensemble

These ensembles rehearse after school or at lunchtime and regularly perform at assemblies and various venues in our community, providing fabulous musical and personal growth opportunities for our students.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students wishing to commence or continue learning an ensemble instrument and participate in music ensembles should nominate for our full year music specialist program.

The performance-based courses provide students access to free, small group instrumental lessons. Students participate in year level ensemble rehearsals and performances, study the theory of music, learn basic keyboard, aural and composition skills, engage in music technology projects and explore musical styles and history through practical music making.



There is a significant emphasis on the practical application of musical skills. Technology is incorporated in our dedicated performing arts computer suite and software such as Sibelius, Auralia and Musition.

When choosing music specialist courses, students are expected to commit to regular instrumental practice for around 30 minutes each day and attend their weekly instrumental lessons.

Those involved in co-curricular ensembles should prioritise rehearsals. Students are also expected to participate in performances outside school hours throughout the year.

Year 7 - music specialist - full year program

This subject caters for both the beginning musician and those with prior musical knowledge. The course is delivered in four lessons per week. Students participate in year 7 ensemble rehearsals and performances. They are introduced to basic keyboard playing, engage in music technology projects, study music theory, and develop aural awareness.

Students have tuition on an ensemble instrument either at school in a small group lesson during school hours, which we provide free, or they learn privately at their own cost. Commitment to perform in one of the evening performances is expected each semester.

Year 7 to 8 - music general

Students who do not undertake the full year music specialist course complete the compulsory arts rotation, including a 10-week course in general music (no instrumental tuition), visual art, drama, and dance.

Year 8 to 10 - music specialist *

Students can continue their study of music and further develop their instrumental playing by continuing with instrumental lessons and playing in class and co-curricular ensembles. School lessons are free, but parents or caregivers can pay for private lessons. Students continue to study theory, aural aspects of music history, musical styles, and elementary composition and engage in music technology projects.

**** If selecting this subject in years 8 to 10, students should already have some music experience through year 7 music specialist or lessons outside of school. It is advised to speak to the director of music and the arts if choosing this without previously learning music.***

SACE stage 1 and stage 2 music subjects

In years 11 and 12, students can continue their music journey through various SACE music subjects, including:

- music performance
- solo
- music performance
- ensemble
- music explorations

These courses cater to different strengths, interests, and future goals, allowing students to choose the best combination. Many students study music in Stage 1 and 2 as a single subject or part of a broader combination.





Our music program has consistently seen strong participation, with students developing their skills and exploring music more deeply. Graduates from our program have pursued Bachelor of Music degrees at the Elder Conservatorium, University of Adelaide, continued their studies through TAFE, or stayed connected to music through community bands and ensembles. This pathway supports both professional aspirations and lifelong enjoyment of music.

INSTRUMENT SELECTION

New students to Aberfoyle Park High School who undertake the year 7 music specialist full year program learn an ensemble instrument. The school can provide tuition in the following instruments:

- flute
- clarinet
- saxophone - alto or tenor
- trumpet
- trombone
- violin, viola, cello
- percussion - drum kit, tuned and untuned*
- electric bass*

***Please note that positions for percussion and electric bass are very limited. Preference is given to students who have been learning these instruments in primary school through Instrumental lessons where the reading of traditional music notation is taught (not Tab).**

Students benefit most from our school's music program by learning one of these instruments. Year level ensemble rehearsals in years 7 to 10 constitute the major focus of the learning programs, with theory, aural and composition tasks designed to complement and support the learning. Students can also participate in various cocurricular ensembles once they attain a suitable note-reading and technical standard.

Students indicate their instrument preferences on the music nomination form, which can be found by scanning the QR code at the end of this brochure or clicking the link and we endeavour to give students their highest preferences.

We have a limited allocation of the Department's instrumental lessons for each instrument type. Our school's ensemble program's viability, balance and effectiveness are considered when making these decisions. However, year 6 students intending to continue their current study of an instrument privately can choose to nominate the study of a different instrument in year 7.

Year 6 students nominating for the music specialist program will be involved in introductory music sessions at the beginning of year 7. These sessions have helped confirm students' instrumental preferences and often identify instrument-specific potential and suitability amongst some incoming students. Confirmation of instruments will then be communicated within the first few weeks of the beginning of the school year.

If you are unfamiliar with a particular instrument, please contact the music staff to explain or demonstrate the instrument.





All year 7 students also learn basic keyboard skills within the music specialist curriculum and their ensemble instrument. Voice, guitar and piano tuition are unavailable through the school however, many students sing in the school choir and make private vocal, guitar or piano lesson arrangements outside school hours.

New students enrolling in years 8 to 10 have access to instrumental lessons by negotiation with the director of music and the wellbeing leaders. Previous study of an instrument and note reading is generally required.

COSTS

If students from years 7 to 12 need to hire an instrument, they can do this privately, or they can do so through the school. Instruments hired through the school are heavily subsidised, compared to private hire.

Students must purchase tutor books/repertoire pieces as determined by their instrumental teacher and minor equipment/spares associated with their instrument, such as reeds, strings, valve oil, etc. Students in the co-curricular ensembles are required to purchase a black performance shirt.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Year 6 students wishing to participate in the music specialist program will need to complete the music specialist nomination form in this pack.

If you have any questions about the music specialist program contact:

Suriya Down Director of Music and the Arts at suriya.down908@schools.sa.edu.au

QR CODE FOR NOMINATION FORM



OR CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE
IF VIEWING ONLINE

