



Gordon East Public School Parents & Citizens Association

ABN 20 563 274 973

Rosedale Road Gordon 2072 Telephone 9498 2011 Fax 9498 4173

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Gordon East Public School (GEPS) String Ensemble Programme.

This booklet provides important information about the String Ensemble Programme for you and your child. In particular it provides an overview of:

- How the String Ensemble Programme works.
- Expectations of String Ensemble membership.
- Your parental role in the Programme.
- Expected costs for String Ensemble membership.

By understanding how the programme works you will enhance your child's musical development and help promote the growth of the String Ensemble Programme at Gordon East.



The String Ensemble Programme embodies the following guiding principles and values:

- We strive to be the best String Ensemble we can possibly be.
- We do this because it is challenging, not because it is easy.
- To be a member of the String Ensemble is an honour and a privilege, not a right.
- Respect, co-operation and consideration for others within the String Ensemble community are fundamental values.
- The well-being of the String Ensemble is greater than that of any individual.
- Our best players are those who try the hardest to set our musical standards.
- **Everybody who chooses to be part of the String Ensemble community has an opportunity to contribute to an enjoyable and positive experience.**





Gordon East Public School String Ensemble Aims and Expectations

Objectives

In offering a String Ensemble Programme at Gordon East Public School our objectives are to:

- Encourage the participation of as many children as possible.
- Enable children to enjoy music and play music for other people's enjoyment.
- Give the children an ensemble experience where they can learn to work as a team where each member is important, and to have fun playing together.
- Be a supportive environment that will provide performance experiences that are designed to build confidence, a sense of achievement and self-esteem.
- Support individual tuition by providing a place to play and develop string skills in a safe environment.
- Encourage the child's listening skills, intonation and rhythm and encourage the love of the instrument itself.
- Introduce and develop an appreciation for a wide variety of music.
- Widen the students' scope for communication, expression and exploration through music.

Our Policy Statement:

The String Ensemble Programme exists to enable children to enjoy playing music with their friends and classmates as part of a group. Being in the String Ensemble develops teamwork and a sense of achievement.

The String Ensembles are for students who love music and want to be there. Fundamental to this is the full support and co-operation of all String Ensemble parents, students, conductors, P & C Strings Co-ordinator and staff of GEPS.





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The String Ensemble Programme:

At Gordon East Public School the String Ensemble Programme consists of the Mozart Ensemble and the Vivaldi Ensemble.

- ***The Mozart Ensemble*** is the beginner strings group with rehearsals on Thursday mornings at **7:55am** in the school Library. All children are encouraged to play according to their ability and appropriate music is carefully selected for all levels.
- ***The Vivaldi Ensemble*** is for more advanced students and rehearsals are on Mondays at lunchtime in the school hall. The selection of music for this group not only challenges the students, but also assists them in developing musically and enhances their string skills.

All string players including violin, viola and cello from K-6 are welcome and both Classically and Suzuki trained students are encouraged to join at any time throughout the year.

Both Ensembles provide a number of opportunities during the year for the children to learn performance skills providing a great sense of achievement. Music Ensembles are a great place to practise listening skills, intonation, rhythm and teamwork and most importantly are lots of fun!





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Rehearsals/Commitment:

Members are expected to attend at least one rehearsal per week and will sometimes be asked to join another rehearsal when preparing for a performance.

All String Ensemble members are expected to help with the setting up and packing away of all equipment including chairs and stands.

All Mozart Ensemble families are rostered to attend rehearsals, with a commitment of approximately once a term per family. To comply with child protection regulations at least one parent must be present throughout each rehearsal. Thus parent attendance is important and cover/swap must be organised in advance if you are unable to attend the rostered date.

All new parent volunteers need to complete a ***“Working with Children”*** form at the school office before commencing rehearsal duty.

Tutorials - All students are also expected to have a weekly tutorial with a private tutor. This is to be arranged by parents.

Performances - The String Ensembles perform at various school events and students are expected to participate. While sometimes it may not be possible to attend, it is expected that students and parents make every effort to do so.





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The P & C Music Committee:

The Gordon East Public School String Ensemble and Band programmes are parent run initiatives that work closely with the school principal and staff.

The programmes are managed by a volunteer P&C Sub-Committee, which contracts professional musicians to conduct the String Ensembles and Bands.

The positions include:

- Band Coordinator x 2
- Training Band Coordinators
- Concert Band Coordinators
- String Ensemble Coordinator
- Music Committee Treasurer

The P & C Music Committee meets regularly with the Band Director, String Ensemble Director/Conductor, Conductors of the Training Band, Concert Band and Music staff from GEPS.

The P & C Music Committee meetings are held each term and all parents of students in the programmes are welcome to attend.





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Fees/Costs:

The P & C Music Committee aims to keep the music programme costs as affordable as possible. The programme fees are designed to cover all conducting and performance costs for the year.

Invoices for the String Ensembles will be distributed by email during the fourth week of Term 1 for families who opt to pay their invoices annually.

This is the preferred option.

For those families who choose to pay per Semester (Semester 1 = Term 1 & 2, Semester 2 = Term 3 & 4), invoices will be distributed in the fourth week of Term 1 and Term 3. Hard copy invoices are available on request.

- String Ensemble fees invoiced annually - \$440. Invoices are issued in Term 1 and are due 14 days from the date of issue.
- String Ensemble fees invoiced per Semester - \$220 per semester. Invoices are issued in Term 1 & 3 and fees are due 14 days from the date of issue.
- String Ensemble fees will be calculated pro rata for students who join mid term.

Withdrawal from the String Ensemble Programme:

- We would ask that members wishing to leave the String Ensemble programme do so at the end of a term. Notice of withdrawal from the programme should be made in writing to the relevant P & C String Ensemble Coordinator.
- No refund of fees will be considered, however the Music Committee will consider extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances on an individual basis.
- Re-application for entry into the String Ensemble Programme will be considered by the String Ensemble Director/Conductor and String Ensemble Coordinator as appropriate.

