

Handbook



Performing Arts Program 2024



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Principals Message

At Kolbe Catholic College we recognise the importance of providing a balanced curriculum; a curriculum that gives students the opportunity to broaden their learning horizons. We understand the importance that dance, drama and music play in a child's education and the enjoyment it brings to all involved.

The Performing Arts Program is a key feature of the school, and its development continues to be a high priority. We are delighted with the quality of teaching staff that are associated with the program. For many years, students have acquired high-level skills that have not only been used in school-based programs but have formed the basis of a life-long connection with the Arts. The school can offer the program in its purpose-built facilities. Performing Arts promotion is achieved through the many public performances in which the students participate.

This booklet covers the main elements of the program, its staffing, fees, hire of instruments and the key dates for the year.

We look forward to seeing many students making a commitment to the Performing Arts and developing, growing, and enhancing their talent.

Nick Scully
Principal

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Welcome

Performing Arts enables students to explore, be creative, look for inspiration, learn from failure, develop self-confidence, and make connections within the school community. All of this is important in the development and growth of the individual to enable them to work to their full potential.

Kolbe Catholic College offers an extensive Dance, Drama and Music co-curricular program. The program is open to all Year 7-12 students and is a chance to share talents in a supportive and fun environment. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to the more advanced. There is ample opportunity for students to become involved behind the scenes.

The Performing Arts continues to grow, with new and exciting opportunities regularly being introduced. It motivates students to do their best and extend their own personal limits in an encouraging environment. It is an excellent way for students to try something new while improving creativity, coordination, concentration, self-discipline, and presentation skills. Most importantly, it enables students to learn to work effectively and feel part of a team.

The school encourages all students to take up the challenge and discover the enjoyment and exhilaration of being a part of this exciting and rewarding program.

Laura Roso

Director of Performing Arts

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Co-curriculum Option

Alongside the regular Performing Arts classes, Kolbe offers an extensive co-curricular program. Students can participate in the following:

Performing Arts Clubs

Dance Club

Drama Club

Karaoke Club

Juggling Club

Choir

Sound/Audio Team

Performing Arts Private Tuition (Cost)

Kolbe offers private tuition in the following Performing Arts fields. An application form must be completed to register.

Acting

Dance

Bass Guitar

Guitar

Drums

Piano

Trumpet

Voice

Performances

Kolbe's Got Talent

Performing Arts Showcase

School Assemblies and Events

Production (proposed for 2025)

Note: The introduction of new Performing Arts activities is regularly being added and are advertised on SEQTA and in the newsletter.

Please direct any Performing Arts questions to Laura Roso – Director of Performing Arts

lroso@kolbecc.catholic.edu.au

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Quick Reference Guide

Here is everything you need to know about enrolling in the Performing Arts Program at Kolbe Catholic College:

1. Before completing the application process, thoroughly read through the contents of this document; making sure that you understand fully the commitment required of your child and the terms and conditions of enrolment.
2. Have a conversation with your child as to the instrument or program they might like to be involved.
3. Decide on the type of lesson you want for your child. Individual tuition is our premium option and undoubtedly offers the best environment for your child to hone their skills, however, paired tuition can be a more affordable option for some families.
4. Complete the Enrolment Application Form and return to the Director of Performing Arts. Applications received shortly before the end of term will be held over until the commencement of the next term at which time tuition will commence.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment in Performing Arts Tuition will continue until such time as a Cancellation of Enrolment form is received. This includes at the end of the year.

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Section A: Performing Arts Tuition

Performing Arts & Instrumental Music Tutors

The Kolbe Catholic College Performing Arts Department has engaged the services of external tutors who deliver lessons on a weekly basis to our students. Our tutors are talented artists who are dedicated to providing every student with the individual attention and care necessary for their ongoing development and growth as artists and musicians. Many of our tutors continue to enjoy productive careers as professional performers and musicians outside of school hours and are well respected within the wider community.

Performing Arts Available for Tuition

Kolbe Catholic College has a large variety of programs available for tuition. Tuition is available in dance, acting, voice, piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums, and trumpet.

Private Instrumental Music Lessons

Enrolment in private Performing Arts tuition is on a **yearly** basis, with eight weeks' fees payable, in full, at the commencement of each term.

Beginner and intermediate students are withdrawn from class for half a period (25 minutes) once a week during the school term. Fixed and extended lesson times are offered where possible for senior/advanced students, especially those studying VCE/VET music. In Years 7-11 the lessons rotate within the academic timetable, while at Year 12 the lessons are timetabled to fit into the students' free periods where possible.

Students are taught performance, theory, ear training and sight-reading skills using standard curriculum and textbooks. Tutors will supply supplemental material of a variety of styles based on students' interest. From time to time, tutors may request that students purchase sheet music that is relevant to their course of study. This can usually be done online or at a local music store.

Lesson Attendance

Students are expected to attend every lesson unless officially excused e.g., school activity or illness. Where students are absent due to illness, please give as much advance notice as possible by emailing the Director of Performing Arts and copying in the tutor. This will allow the tutor to better use any resulting vacant periods for other students. Please do this in addition to ringing the College.

Lessons missed with sufficient advance notice will be made up, as will lessons missed because of school activities, sport events notified in the College calendar, newsletters, or bulletins. *It is expected that students will provide the Director of Performing Arts with not less than two weeks' notice of any such planned absence.*

Parents will be notified when their child misses a lesson.

Tutors are not expected to make up lessons that students miss through family holidays during school terms.

From time to time, school tests may clash with a music lesson. Students are still required to attend their scheduled music lesson, negotiating a rescheduling of the test with the class teacher. *Make up lessons will not be given if students do not attend.* Year 12 students doing a SAC are exempt from this, however, they need to notify the Director of Performing Arts and tutor of the time and date of the SAC (at least 2 weeks in advance). *If no notification is given, no make-up lesson will be scheduled.*

Students should attend their lesson punctually and be fully prepared.

When a Performing Arts lesson is scheduled midway through an academic lesson, as a matter of courtesy, the student should alert their teacher at the beginning of the lesson that they will be leaving half way through.

Students must sign in and out of their lesson via the iPad provided at the Performing Arts building. This enables the school and teachers to know where they are, always.

Music Practice

Students are required, and encouraged, to practice regularly at home. This will enable students to get the most out of their sessions. Tutors may issue homework for students to complete. Diaries are available for students' session information to be recorded in. Contact the Director of Performing Arts if you feel this would benefit your child.

Ensemble Participation

Kolbe Catholic College offers an ensemble program to meet the needs of every student's musical ability.

Creating music with others is an exciting experience and performing in small or large groups is an integral part of the music program. Ensemble participation offers students the opportunity to extend their skills, gain valuable team and performance experience, they also benefit from the camaraderie that such groups provide. If they wish, students may participate in more than one ensemble as it provides them with an opportunity to experience a variety of genre, teaching, and musical styles.

Tutors will nominate and contact students to arrange an ensemble for students to be a part of when opportunities arise. This is decided based on student's ability and considering the balance of instruments within an ensemble. To minimise disruption to the academic program, ensemble rehearsals are held either before school, recess, at lunchtimes or after school. Some of the ensembles on offer include vocal ensembles and guitar ensembles, percussion ensembles.

Ensemble Attendance

Ensembles rehearse once a week and students are expected to attend every ensemble rehearsal and scheduled concert unless officially excused. Ensemble experience is as important as the weekly instrumental lesson and contributes to the musical development of each student.

Students should attend their ensemble rehearsal punctually and be fully prepared. A student must notify their ensemble conductor/director at least the day before if they cannot attend any rehearsals for any reason.

It is expected that students arrive before the set starting time to help with the setting up, to warm up their instruments/voices and to prepare for the rehearsal.

Students are expected help pack up all equipment at the end of the rehearsal.

All music is to be kept in the allocated folders. Students are not allowed to take home original music. Students needing practice copies should see their ensemble conductor/director.

Schedule of Fees

All students participating in the Performing Arts Private Tuition Program at Kolbe Catholic College are expected to pay fees, levied at the beginning of each term, to cover the tuition and instrument hire (where applicable).

TUITION FEE	\$/LESSON	\$/TERM	\$/YEAR
Individual (Rotational)	\$ 25.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00
Individual (Fixed)	\$ 30.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 960.00
Paired (Rotational) – <i>Guitar/Bass Guitar ONLY</i>	\$ 20.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 640.00
Dance/Acting	\$ 25.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00

Payment of Fees

Performing Arts tuition fees must be paid, in full, at the commencement of each term. Where it is reasonable to do so, there will be a pro-rata adjustment made for late enrolments in the Performing Arts Tuition Program.

Tuition fees will be processed prior to the commencement of each term.

Lesson Guarantee

Students commencing tuition at the beginning of the academic year will receive a minimum 32 lessons. Those commencing later in the year can expect to receive:

Term Two 24 lessons minimum

Term Three 16 lessons minimum

Term Four 8 lessons minimum

Students will be charged for lessons received in addition to this minimum quota.

Withdrawal from Lessons

We encourage students to persist with their chosen Performing Arts tuition option for at least one year, however, if a student wishes to cease lessons, the school must receive *four weeks' notice* in writing via a completed *Cancellation of Enrolment form* which are available from the Director of Performing Arts.

Tuition shall cease at the end of each term provided the Director of Performing Arts receives a signed *Cancellation of Enrolment form* by:

- ❖ *Friday 22 March* for withdrawal at the end of *Term 1, 2024*.
- ❖ *Friday 7 June* for withdrawal at the end of *Term 2, 2024*.
- ❖ *Friday 6 September* for withdrawal at the end of *Term 3, 2024*.
- ❖ *Friday 29 November* for withdrawal at the end of *Term 4, 2024*.

Enrolment in instrumental music tuition will continue until such time as a Cancellation of Enrolment form is received. This includes at the end of the year.

Participation in Performing Arts Events

Kolbe Catholic College offers a rich calendar of concerts that showcase students of all abilities. Every student in the tuition program is invited to perform at nominated concerts and public events throughout the year. As students develop their skills, they are expected to have more for public performances.

2024 Year 7 Scholarships

Kolbe Catholic College offers a rich calendar of concerts that showcase students of all abilities. Every student in the tuition program is invited to perform at nominated concerts and public events throughout the year. As students develop their skills, they are expected to have more for public performances.

Students entering Year 7 in 2024 can apply to receive one semester of free private Performing Arts tuition provided by qualified and experienced Performing Arts teachers from within the school or external professionals. This unique offering provides up to 4 students the chance to have a semester of free lessons in one of the following disciplines:

- *Drums*
- *Guitar – Acoustic or electric*
- *Piano*
- *Trumpet*
- *Vocal*
- *Dance*

Applications are invited from both experienced and new Performing Arts students. The selection process will involve an application and audition process, ensuring deserving students are given this valuable opportunity.

Further information regarding the scholarship requirements can be obtained by emailing the Director of Performing Arts, Miss Laura Roso.

Submission close: November 16th, 2023.

Section B: Musical Instruments

Purchasing Instrument

Students wishing to undertake tuition who do not currently own an instrument should hire or purchase an instrument to enable practice at home. For recommendations, please see speak to your instrumental staff. This is crucial as many instruments are unreliable and hamper progress severely.

Instrument Hire/Purchase can be made through the following companies. This is the family responsibility, however, if you would like recommendations on which instrument to purchase/hire please see your allocated music tutor.

Music Corp - Hiring

<https://www.musiccorp.com.au/>

Phone: 1300 858 911

Email: info@polygongroup.com.au

Genesis Music School – Purchase/Hire

<https://www.genesismusicschool.com.au/>

Phone: 0421 426 674

Email: info@genesismusicschool.com.au

Hire of Instruments –

(Only applicable to student who joined the instrumental program in 2023 or prior)

The following conditions apply to the hiring of instruments through Kolbe Catholic College:

1. For those who have a currently hired instrument, the hire fee will be billed to your College account at the beginning of each term. Please note, that instrument hire fees are subject to change without notice.

This payment covers reasonable wear and tear of Kolbe's instruments. Instruments hired by the school and lent to students are not covered by the school's insurance policy, so it is highly recommended that parents register the instrument with their insurance provider.

2. Students must return an instrument hired by Kolbe Catholic College to the Music Faculty, in person, immediately after cessation of lessons or hire charges will incur.
3. Instrument hire is recommended for one year only; after which time students are encouraged to purchase an instrument of their own.
4. Reasonable care must be taken against the instrument being lost or stolen. The hirer is fully liable for the instrument during the hire period and loss of the instrument during this period will incur full replacement costs. We recommend that parents investigate insurance for loss or theft.
5. Any repairs necessary due to damage caused through negligence must be paid for by the hirer. On no account may the student or any person attempt repairs or adjustments to the instrument. Any repair necessary due to damage caused through the student's negligence must be paid for by the hirer. Any damage or defects to the instrument must be brought to the attention of the Music Faculty staff immediately.
6. All sundries such as strings, sticks etc. must be replaced by the hirer if necessary.
7. When at school, but not in use, the instrument must be stored in the music storeroom.
8. No person, other than the student or their tutor, may be allowed to play or handle the instrument.
9. At the end of the hire period the instrument must be returned to the Music Faculty personally, in clean condition and in good working order.

Security of Musical Instruments

We advise that privately owned instruments be individually insured by the owner, as the school insurance policy does not cover the personal property of students. Do not leave instruments in unsecured areas.

All instrument cases should be clearly labelled with the student's name and contact details and a record kept of the instrument's serial number.

Section C: Parental Involvement

What parents can do to help?

Parents and friends are warmly welcomed to all our concert events. Sharing in the performances your child is involved in adds immeasurably to their experiences in the Performing Arts. We aim to provide many performing opportunities for all our aspiring artists.

Supporting home practice is vital for the success of all students. Here are some hints on taking the “pain out practice”:

- Establish a regular practice routine.
- This must be daily and consistent to take full benefit of the tuition. Finding a regular window of time, such as immediately after school, or before or after dinner, helps when establishing such a routine.
- Where practical, it is helpful if the student does not have to put their instrument away in its case between practice sessions.
- Encourage mini performances at home to family and friends.
- Where possible create an area for practice in your home and, importantly, a music stand makes all the difference.

NOTE:

- *It is much better to practice for a small amount of time every day, than to have one or two big practices each week.*
- *Students should have a music stand & stable chair, in a quiet place without other distractions such as TV, radio, mobile phone or other electronic devices.*

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Section D: Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

Do you teach beginners?

Yes, we teach beginners as well as experienced students.

What if my child is experienced, will you make them start at the beginning?

No, with experienced students we try to pick up where their skills are already formed. In some cases, it may be necessary to rework bad habits that may have crept in over time or through informal learning.

Does my child need a musical instrument to take music lessons?

Ultimately, yes. Whether you choose to purchase or hire a musical instrument for your child, they do need something to practice on each day between their lessons. Before purchasing an instrument, please seek advice from your child's Music Tutor as to the brands/models look out for (and those to avoid!).

How long will it take before my child can perform something?

They will be performing 'something' the first lesson! Having said that, it takes time to be able to play music that sounds 'complete'. New music students can be playing something familiar in as little as a few months. How long it takes to achieve your goals depends on how much time you put in, what instrument you have chosen and what your goals are.

Do you offer group lessons?

Yes, but only on guitar, bass guitar, dance and acting. Logistically, we are unable to offer group lessons on piano or drums, and we have found from many years of teaching that no two voices are the same making group lessons impractical.

Can my child learn more than one instrument?

Students may learn more than one instrument or have more than one session of private tuition in the Performing Arts. Simply fill out an additional Enrolment Application Form.

Can my child learn at school and have lessons outside on the same instrument?

It is strongly recommended that students only have one tutor per instrument. Students can become confused and over worked with different teaching approaches/methods.

How competitive are your fees?

We want every family to be able to afford music lessons for their child. It is for this reason that we offer high-quality, affordable lessons. Local music schools currently charge around \$30/ lesson. Our most popular lessons (individual, rotational lessons) are competitively priced at \$25/ *lesson* and if you're taking paired lessons on either guitar, bass guitar, dance and acting lessons are just \$20/*lesson*.

Can we take Performing Arts tuition every other week instead of every week?

No. It is important that the Tutor checks your child's progress every week. Attending weekly lessons will enhance the learning momentum and generate mastering a skill more quickly. Furthermore, if you miss a lesson, it would be almost month before you saw your Tutor again.

When are Private tuition lessons scheduled?

Most students take individual, rotational lessons. These lessons occur during school hours. Students are withdrawn from their timetabled class for a 25-minute lesson. Each week, students receive a new time meaning they do not miss the same lesson every week. Those students undertaking fixed lessons, will be allocated a time either before school (8.00am – 9.00am), at lunchtime (12.50pm – 1.20pm) or after school (3.15pm – 4.45pm).

What instrument is right for my child?

For some there is the myth that the 1st instrument must be piano. This is patently false. If you choose piano for your child over their objections, then it is your choice not theirs. If you let them choose then you will get a clear picture of their commitment level.

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Can we start in the middle of the year?

Yes. In fact, we accept enrolments all year-round. Once your application has been received, it will be processed and added to the timetable either at the beginning of Week 5 of the term in which it is received, or at the beginning of the next term if it is received in the second half of the term.

How long should my child be practicing each day?

For beginners, 15 – 20 minutes each day. Although, the more your child practices, the faster they will progress. More advanced students (including VCE/VET Music students) should be practicing up to one hour per day.

I don't have any musical background or ability; can I still help my child practice?

Yes. Even if you don't have a musical background, you can ask the Music Tutor for advice on how to help your child practice. Finally, by simply monitoring that they are practicing every day, doing exercises a certain number of times, etc. your child will progress.

Should you any questions, please feel free to give Miss Laura Roso – Director of Performing Arts - a call during College hours or send an email.

Phone: (03) 8339 3060

Email: lroso@kolbecc.catholic.edu.au

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