



Rhenish Primary: Music Policy

VISION: The vision of the Rhenish Primary School Music Department is to instil an enduring love for music in our pupils.

MISSION: To provide quality music tuition in an encouraging environment that will enable each pupil to reach their personal musical potential.

In addition to the above, music fosters personal growth in the following ways:

- Stimulation of right and left brain activity
- Develops psychomotor skills (large and fine), memory and co-ordination
- Sound discrimination
- Increased powers of concentration
- Increased verbal memory and reasoning skills
- Positive self-concept of achievement and recognition
- Self-expression and creativity
- Self-discipline: sense of responsibility, perseverance and endurance
- Social skills: mutual respect, co-operative behaviour and friendship
- Aesthetic taste: appreciation of beauty and complexity in all aspects of life

A. CLASSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION

We have a range of classical instruments on offer, provided by a selection of teachers listed on our Music Teachers Directory on the d6 Communicator.

This allows parents to contact the teacher of their choice directly (or the Head of the Music Department) in order to secure a lesson time with him/her, either during school hours or in the afternoons. If during school time, a music lesson will be arranged depending on the availability of the teacher as well as venue. Lessons are available to children from Gr. 1-7.

An option which some private music teachers offer is an Introductory Course to Music.

Introductory Course of Music:

This is a year's course for Gr.1 & 2 pupils only, who have not yet chosen an individual instrument. The course consists of one 30-minute group lesson per week, which includes the reading of basic music notation, playing of percussion instruments, playing the recorder and an introduction to instruments taught at school. Each group is limited to a maximum of three pupils, in order to enjoy the full benefits of the course.

B. ROCK AND POP MUSIC TUITION

The light music section offers acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit lessons. The teachers expose children to a variety of musical genre, ranging from rock and pop, to reggae, to country music.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MUSIC TUITION:

1. If on applying for a placement with your preferred teacher, there are no vacancies, the Music Teachers Directory (on the d6) can be consulted in order to secure an arrangement with another teacher of the same instrument, thus eliminating the need for a waiting list.

2. Parents must be prepared to allow their children to miss at least an hour (two half-hour sessions) of any of the academic timetable, if receiving tuition during school hours. Every effort is made to prevent having a pupil miss the same subject twice in one week.
3. Children are encouraged to practise daily and to attend all music lessons.
 - On average, lessons equate to 9 per term.
 - It is strongly discouraged that a parent teaches alternative techniques to those of the teacher as it leads to confusion rather than progress.
4. All music pupils are encouraged to play in an ensemble or music group as an extension of their individual lessons, as soon as they have reached the required standard.
5. Similarly, children receiving drum kit, guitar, keyboard, and voice tuition may be placed in a band at the teacher's discretion as an extension of their individual lessons, as soon as they have reached the required standard.
6. A pupil must have access to an instrument on which to practise. We have a limited number of violins, flutes, clarinets, saxophones and trumpets for hire for a maximum period of one year. A contract for use thereof must be signed annually.
 - An annual service fee is payable in advance for the year.
 - Instrument rental fees are charged per term.
 - Hired instruments must be returned in the same condition as they were received. Parents are responsible for damaged, lost or stolen instruments.
 - No pianos, keyboards, guitars or drums are available for hire.
 - Music teachers can advise with regard to hiring or purchasing other instruments from reputable companies.
7. The music timetable is arranged in consultation with the relevant class and subject teachers in order to ensure the least disruption to the academic programme and other scheduled activities. Music pupils must attend all their scheduled lessons.
 - Gr. 1- 3 pupils will be called for their lessons.
 - Gr. 4-7 pupils will only be called for the first three weeks of the school year; after which they will be responsible for remembering their scheduled lesson times.
8. The music teachers are not obliged to make up lessons missed for any of the following reasons:
 - School events e.g. school's birthday celebrations, galas, athletics etc.
 - Public holidays
 - UNISA, Royal School or Trinity exams held during school time
9. Unfortunately, lessons missed due to absenteeism of the pupil, are not always able to be made up due to time constraints.
10. Although not obligatory, pupils are encouraged to participate in the external music examinations as set by UNISA, ABRSM, Trinity, and Rock School, as well as the Stellenbosch and Helderberg Eisteddfods. Parents must communicate their wish to enrol their children for these external programmes.
11. Regular music concerts, including Rock and Pop Concerts, as well as assembly concerts, give each music pupil the opportunity to perform for their parents, teachers and friends.

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES:

Membership of the following activities is encouraged:

1. Junior Choir: "The Treble makers"

Junior Choir members are drawn from Grade 3. Auditions for the Junior Choir take place during the first two weeks of the academic year. With regular practise, these young voices improve in range, strength and quality. The "Treble makers" perform at various school events.

2. Senior Choir: "Dynamics!"

Senior Choir members are drawn from Grades 4 to 7. Auditions take place at the beginning of the academic year. The choir sings in unison, as well as two or three voice works. "Dynamics!" performs at all major school functions.

3. Choir Workshops:

The Junior and Senior Choir Workshop is a compulsory annual rehearsal at the beginning of the year. The emphasis is on the building of repertoire and team building.

4. Orchestra: "Riff Raff"

"Riff Raff" is open to any pupil who can play any instrument, irrespective of whether the child takes music lessons at school. The orchestra performs at all major school functions.

5. Orchestra Workshop:

The Orchestra Workshop is a compulsory annual rehearsal at the beginning of the year. The emphasis is on the building of repertoire and team building.

6. Orff:

Orff is the playing of pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments in combination with voice and movement, taught mainly by rote. The activity is open to Gr.2-4 children. This group is mainly for beginners and is a training ground for Riff Raff and for Marimba Bands. The pupils develop a strong rhythmic sense and note reading skills.

7. Marimba Bands:

The Marimba Bands plays soulful, lively and energetic music from a variety of cultures and genres. Auditions are open to Gr.5-7 pupils, irrespective of their previous music experience. These bands perform at various school functions.

CAPS CURRICULUM

The broader Arts and Culture Department teaches and assesses all the Performing Arts lessons from Gr.1-7 according to the requirements of the CAPS (Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements) document. These lessons include Music, and Dance and Drama. The lessons are incorporated into the academic timetable.

RECOGNITION AND REWARDS SYSTEM:

Children from Gr.4-7 who make excellent progress may be awarded Cultural Merit badges at the beginning of each term. Outstanding achievements are acknowledged by special music awards and trophies at the Awards Assembly or Prize-Giving in the fourth term.

MUSIC CONCERTS:

The following regular concerts and events form part of the annual music concert programme:

TERM	CONCERT	DESCRIPTION
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founders' Day Concert (e.g. Musical Cheers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large music groups and selected soloists and ensembles perform.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RPS Prestige Music Concert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held in the Endler Hall at the Conservatoire• Music groups and selected soloists and ensembles perform.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prize-Giving• Community Tea• Assembly Concerts• Rock & Pop Concert• Festive/ Carols Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Junior Choir, Orchestra and selected soloists perform.• Senior Choir, Orchestra, Marimba Band, ensembles and selected soloists perform. Music pupils perform for past teachers, grandparents and Hospice patients. PTA assists with catering.• Music pupils perform for family and friends.• Gr. 5, 6 & 7 bands and Marimba Bands perform.• Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Orchestra, Marimba Band, ensembles and selected soloists perform.

PAYMENT OF MUSIC FEES:

Payment of Private Music Tuition Fees

- Private music tuition is paid directly to the music teacher.
- Fees are set per term and not per lesson.
- Fees are paid strictly in advance.
- If the music fees are not paid according to the agreement between the teacher and parent, lessons may be suspended until payment is made.
- It is preferable to give one full term's notice – in writing – (via email) to terminate a contract with any of the private music teachers on the Rhenish Music Teachers Directory. This arrangement will be conducted privately.
- There may be a variation regarding the fees required by private teachers.