Introduction

The North Ryde Band Program has an important role within the school’s life, and is a co-operative project involving parents, students, the school and Key Music Australia. We all need to play our part to make sure that the bands provide an experience that is fun and educational for everyone.

The North Ryde Band Program began in 2008 and now has grown to include three bands, the Performance Band, Concert Band and the Training Band.

Students in Years 3 to 6 are eligible to participate in the Band Program. Most children would join the Training Band initially and progress to the Concert Band after one year. Some children may be invited to transfer to a higher level band depending on their skill and level of achievement. Children who wish to join the Band Program during the year will be assessed for a suitable placement in one of the bands.

We encourage all parents to support their child’s musical education through the band experience.
The Band Program

The North Ryde Public School Band Program is managed by Key Music Australia. Key Music Australia organises the tutorial and rehearsal program and provides conductors and instrument tutors for North Ryde band members. All communication to parents regarding band, tutorial matters and fees will come directly from Key Music Australia.

★ Contact details:

Key Music Australia Director       Matt Dalziel
Phone                               1300 13 18 52
Postal Address                      PO Box 892,  Pennant Hills  NSW 1715
Website                             www.keymusicaustralia.com.au
Email                               office@keymusicaustralia.com.au

Key Music Australia has a comprehensive online portal. It is the first place to go to find out about the costs of participating in the band, how a band program works, instrument assembly and care, and other answers to your questions. Portal: http://myschoolband.com.au/

The North Ryde Public School P&C oversees the coordination of the band program and provides regular financial support and advice to the Band Committee.

Parental Support

The Band Program is a parent-run program and cannot function without the support of every parent. A commitment of parental help is a condition of your child’s acceptance into the band program. If everyone does a little, the load is shared and your child will benefit from your involvement.

We ask that every parent assists in a way that best fits with their other commitments. This may take the form of accepting a valuable and rewarding committee position, or assisting with band rehearsal set-up and supervision, photocopying music, transporting equipment to performances or supporting various band events.

★ Please contact the committee to offer your support:  NorthRydePSband@gmail.com
Band Committee 2016
The Band Committee is a sub-committee of the P&C. The committee includes interested members of the school parent body, the school principal and representatives from Key Music Australia (KMA). It usually meets once or twice a term.

Parent membership of the Band Committee is elected annually by the P&C. the roles are:
- Band Co-ordinator
- Treasurer
- Instrument Manager
- Music Librarian
- Performance Band liaison parent
- Concert Band liaison parent
- Training Band liaison parent
- School Principal

Communication
Every effort is made to keep you informed about the Band Program, including any event or changes to rehearsals or lessons. Communication is provided by:

- emails from the Band Committee or Key Music
  - It is vital that parents register one email address that can be accessed day and evening.
  - Please notify both KMA and the school of any changes of email or phone numbers.
- regular inclusions in the school’s fortnightly online newsletter
  - To subscribe to the eNewsletter go to: www.northrydeps.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe
- phone alerts via the Skoolbag App
  - It is highly recommended that you install the Skoolbag app onto your phone or join the Skoolbag email list.
    - For the smartphone app, search for ‘North Ryde Public School’
    - To join the Skoolbag email list, go the ‘Parents’ page of our website and click on ‘Skoolbag Communication Centre’. Click on ‘Subscribe for email’ (top right-hand corner) and follow the prompts.
    - Be sure to select which band you want to receive push notifications about (go to the ‘more’ option)
- Key Music Australia via email and sms
- the Key Music Australia portal and website
Rehearsals

Performance Band
Rehearsals are held on Wednesday mornings from 7.50 - 9.00am in the school hall. Students should be prompt and assist with setting up and packing up.

Concert Band
Rehearsals are held on Tuesday afternoons from 3.10 - 4.10pm in the school hall. Students are to be collected promptly after the Tuesday rehearsal or are to go to straight to Primary OSHCare.

Training Band
In Term 1, band rehearsals will begin in about Week 7, once students have had sufficient instrument lessons. Instrument lessons will begin in about Week 3. Band rehearsals will be held on Tuesday mornings from 7.50 - 9.00am in the school hall. Students should be prompt and assist with setting up and packing up.

All the bands are conducted by Mrs Imelda Crimmins from Key Music Australia. Parent assistance with setting up and putting away chairs and stands is encouraged and always greatly appreciated.

Sheet Music and Band Folders
Copies of band music are issued to band members in accordance with copyright legislation. These copies remain the property of North Ryde Public School and making further copies of issued music is prohibited. All sheet music used for band remains the property of North Ryde Public School and will be collected.

Training Band members commence learning their instrument and playing in band using a band method book called Sound Innovations, which remains the property of the student.

As the band develops, students will be issued with a band folder to hold sheet music. Folders should be retained and replaced by parents if they fall into disrepair. Other music or tutorial exercises should not be kept in band folders or brought to rehearsals. This may mean that some students use more than one folder for their music.
Music Tuition

Most band students receive lessons from Key Music Australia tutors at school. In 2016 all lessons will be timetabled for Friday mornings, between 8.00-10.30am. The cost of the lessons is invoiced through Key Music Australia each term.

In the event of a student being sick or unable to attend a lesson, the Key Music Australia’s office must be notified. This includes if a student is attending a school event or excursion.

Procedures for notifying absences and conditions relating to makeup lessons are contained in Key Music Australia documentation which is provided to all parents with tutorial invoices.

The music lesson times will vary according to the instrument and availability of tutors. Every effort is made by tutors and school staff to help students remember their lesson times, but we do ask that parents help their child to learn this responsibility.

Students must remember to bring instruments on their band rehearsal day and Fridays. Instruments must be stored in the school hall. Hired instruments should never be left outside or on verandahs, even before school. Any instrument left behind will be taken to the school office.

If parents would like feedback or a report about their child’s progress with their instrument, a written request should be sent to Key Music Australia.

Students who already undertake music lessons (external to the school) can also be involved in the Band Program and are not required to participate in the Key Music instrument lessons at school.

Each band member is expected to practise their instrument at home regularly.
Code of Conduct

Parents are required to explain the band “Code of Conduct” to their child registering for band. Each student is required to sign the document which must then be co-signed by a parent.

As a member of North Ryde Public School band, I accept my responsibility to:

- attend all tutorials, rehearsals and any other band commitments, such as performances, workshops or band camps
- be on time for rehearsals, tutorials and performances
- always show respect and be attentive to band teachers
- help to set up and pack away chairs, music stands and instruments
- practise my instrument and band music regularly at home
- take care of my instrument and clean it after use
- not eat or drink near instruments or music
- return my instrument (if hired) in good condition at the end of the year
- return school folders and music at the end of the year
- display appropriate behaviour at all times, especially when representing the school as a member of the band.

Band Uniform

All band members are expected to own a school band shirt. The school’s P&C subsidise the total cost of the band shirts. Shirts can be purchased from the Uniform Shop for $10*. These will remain the property of the student.

* 2015 price

All bands do perform during the year and it is expected that band shirts will be worn. Expected attire will always be confirmed by the band’s conductor. Band shirts should be worn with the navy school trousers or black pants (not leggings) and black school shoes. It would be appreciated if parents could make every effort to ensure that the shirts are in good condition.
Instruments

Instrument Hire

The Band Committee and Key Music Australia will do their best to source instruments for students to hire at reasonable rates. The instruments will not necessarily all come from the same source but will be tracked via the Band Committee. The Band Committee will provide each family with an ‘Instrument Hire Agreement’ which outlines the conditions of hire and must be signed and returned before the instrument is issued.

Instruments are hired for a period of one year and must be returned to the school for servicing on request. Hire fees are invoiced by the North Ryde Band Committee, or other instrument supplier as arranged by the Committee, and must be paid each term. The instrument supplied to each student is their responsibility for the duration of the hire period. In accepting hire of the instrument, you undertake to safeguard it and care for it properly.

The instrument should only be played by the person for whom it has been hired. Mouthpieces must be cleaned regularly and tutors will advise students on the correct way to do this. Students are required to use the instrument that has been allocated to them. Swapping or exchanging instruments is not permitted.

Any instrument needing repair during the hire period should be brought to school for assessment without delay with a note explaining the problem. Where possible, a replacement instrument will be provided pending resolution of the problem. The cost of repairing an instrument that has been damaged or needs repair because of misuse will be charged to the parent. General servicing will be met by the Band Committee.

Instrument Accessories

A variety of accessories, including clarinet and saxophone reeds, valve oil and cork grease. These are available for purchase at the school’s Uniform Shop.
Fees and other costs
Participation in the band program has several costs.

- **Band rehearsal fees** – invoiced directly to parents by Key Music Australia at the start of each term. Please note that there is a standard fee for all members of any of our bands.*
  
  "Overall, each of the 3 bands has about the same number of rehearsals. While the Training Band does begin rehearsals a few weeks into the year, the Concert and Performance Bands, which are generally made up of older students, tend to have more rehearsal disturbances during the year due to camps, excursions etc."

- **Instrument lesson fees** (where applicable) – invoiced directly to parents by Key Music Australia at the start of each term

- **Instrument hire** (where applicable) – invoiced at the start of each term

- **‘Sounds Innovations’** instrument book for beginners – included in the first invoice of the year from Key Music Australia

- **Purchase of a band shirt for $10** – available from the Uniform Shop (*subsidised by P&C)

**Other costs**
- Instrument care kit – available from local music stores (eg ‘Icon Music’ at West Ryde, ‘Mall Music’ at Macquarie Centre)
- Consumables, such as reeds, valve oil and cork grease – available from the Uniform Shop or local music stores
- Band bag for music folders – available from the Uniform Shop (optional)
- Band workshops – all band students are expected to attend

Occasionally there may be additional charges for performances outside school.

We look forward to sharing a musical journey with you and your child.

Please contact the Band Program Committee (NorthRydePSband@gmail.com) or the school principal (northryde-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) if you have any further questions.