



WGJS Music Information Document 2019

Welcome to WGJS Music Department! We trust that your daughter will have a wonderful musical journey with us. All our music teachers are well qualified and experienced and are always happy to answer any queries you may have. Please take time to read the information below and then sign and return both the application form and the reply slip to the school reception.

1. Which instrument should my daughter learn?

We encourage you to take your daughter to music concerts, listen to classical music online or on CD and watch Youtube clips of different instruments to help your daughter distinguish between the different sounds.

The following instruments may be taken at these ages:

Age 5 upwards: Cello and Recorder

Age 7 upwards: violin

Age 8 upwards: Piano, Orff Ensemble, Junior Saxophone (JSax), Clarinet, Fife or Toot Flute

Age 9 upwards: Guitar, Clarinet, Flute

Age 10 upwards: Saxophone, pipe organ

When a decision has been reached, please approach the finance office for a music application form, or download one from the school website.

Choirs and Ensemble vs Individual Lessons?

Individual lessons will help your daughter to learn faster, read music and play solo in concerts. They will also be eligible to play in the orchestra, string, flute or recorder ensembles. Group lessons are financially more reasonable, but the students do not progress satisfactorily which is why we do not offer this option at WGJS.

In the Choirs and Marimba Ensembles the girls are not taught to read music. These are community-based groups in which the parts are learned by ear and when the girls perform for concerts, they always perform in a group.

If your daughter is considering taking music to a higher level or you think she might be musically talented, then we **strongly recommend taking individual lessons**. She is welcome to take both an instrument and be a member of the choirs/ensembles, should you wish.

2. Length of Lessons

Beginners always receive 30 minute lessons initially. When the learner has reached music exam Grade 1 level (usually after 2 or 3 years), she will be required to have 60-minute weekly lessons of which only 30 minutes may be in school time. Learners wishing to take music in high school will also be required to receive one hour tuition per week.

3. Music Lessons

As our approach is a holistic one, your daughter's participation in the music programme should be seen within the big picture, over the longer term. Learners are encouraged to embark on the music programme with a full commitment to attend and prepare for lessons properly.

Lessons begin in the first week of each term, apart from the first term, when lessons begin after timetables have been confirmed. Lessons culminate in the final week of each term. If your daughter is sufficiently ahead of the class academically, then she will be allowed to have her music lesson in school time (during a double English or double Afrikaans lesson). If she cannot afford to miss out on school time, then her lesson will need to be after school. The music teacher might organise a group lesson when necessary to cover aspects of music such as aural and sight singing. During this session the learners will be able to play for each and build camaraderie. This group session will count as a lesson. In the fourth term no music lessons will be given once the academic exams have commenced.

4. Missed Lessons

Grade 3-7 girls are expected to attend their lessons without being called over the intercom. This saves time and therefore leads to more efficient teaching time. New music learners will be assisted at the start of the year (by their music and class educators), but will be expected to be responsible for their music lessons by the end of February. Lessons missed because of girls not arriving will not be made up by the music educator.

Foundation Phase music learners are encouraged by their music educator to arrive for their lessons unassisted, but will be supported throughout the year.

Unfortunately, lessons missed because of learner illness, school activities e.g., sport trials, outings and camps are logistically impossible to make up as this will impact on the learners' academic time.

We kindly request that if, for whatever reason, your daughter is unable to attend her music lesson, you inform the school of her absence. Please inform the peripatetic and private staff personally, as they come to school only when they have scheduled lessons.

Should the music teacher be ill, then make-up lessons will be arranged.

5. Two Instruments

With permission, it is possible for some learners to have individual lessons in a second instrument at WGJS. This is only allowed if the learner's academic marks are excellent and if the parents, class

teacher and music teacher are in agreement that this will not be too taxing for the learner. This permission will be reviewed if any signs of severe stress are observed.

6. Ensembles, Orchestra and Choir

The music department is growing the following groups:

Tip-Toe Choir (grade 1). No audition. All welcome
Junior Choir (grades 2 and 3). No audition. All welcome.
Intermediate Choir (grades 4 and 5). No audition. All welcome.
Senior Choir (grades 6 and 7). No audition. All welcome.
Vocal Ensemble (by audition only)
Wind Ensemble (by invitation)
String Ensemble (by invitation)
School Orchestra (by invitation)
Marimba Teams (only from Grade 5 upward)
Junior Orff Ensemble (Grades 1-2)
Senior Orff Ensemble (Grades 3-4)

When the student reaches a certain proficiency they join the String Ensemble or Wine Ensemble. Once the invitation is made, these ensembles are compulsory for any girl playing violin, viola, cello, recorder, clarinet, saxophone or flute.

Advanced students of these (and other) instruments may also be invited to join the orchestra. However, they are still obligated to play in their ensemble.

There is an annual contribution of R128 per learner participating in these groups (even if they participate in more than one group, only R128 is paid). This assists with the rising costs of running these groups professionally.

Learners may be a member of only **one** choir. This is to ensure that not too much academic time is missed.

If a rehearsal cannot be attended for whatever reason, the educator in charge must please be notified in advance in writing.

The commitment to these groups is for ONE YEAR. Should there be a valid academic reason why a learner might need to discontinue, then a letter from the parent and from the class teacher will be required.

7. Termination of Lessons

A full term`s notice is required, in writing, regarding the termination of lessons. Otherwise, the full term`s fee will be payable as it is not always possible to replace a learner at short notice.

Please take note:

*Lessons will be terminated if payment is outstanding after the **end of the first month** of the relevant term.*

8. Fees

Kindly note that fees are charged at a set rate per year divided into four equal installments over the four terms and are payable in ADVANCE. Lessons are not billed according to an hourly rate.

For ease of payment, theory fees, annual ensemble contribution and rental fees (if applicable) will be added to your school fee account. If your daughter is receiving lessons from one of the permanent staff (Mrs Hart, Mr Dennis, Miss Peters or Miss Vollenhoven) this will also be reflected on your school fee account. Fees for peripatetic staff are to be settled timeously and directly with individual educators on invoice please.

Permanent Staff for 2019 are:

Mrs C Hart (HOD)	Piano, Marimba, Senior Choir, Vocal Ensemble, class music
Miss T Vollenhoven	Piano, Voice, Marimba, Theory, Intermediate Choir, Tiptoe Choir, class music
Miss T Peters	Marimba, Theory, Flute, Fife, Toot Flute, Wind Ensemble, Junior Choir, class music
Mr M Dennis	Violin, Viola, Piano, Orchestra, String Ensemble, class m

Peripatetic staff for 2019 are:

Mrs J Grant	Piano
Miss S Snyckers	Violin
Miss K Duff	Saxophone, Piano
Mrs T Mills	Cello
Mr R Hack	Guitar
Ms F Brand	Recorder, Clarinet, Piano
Mr K Rijkers	Drum Kit
Mr F Ferrandi	Piano, Clarinet

Fees may be paid by Debit Order, Easy Pay or EFT. Please make the appropriate arrangement with our Finance Office, or individual part-time staff member. Debit orders must please be arranged in writing with the Finance Office.

The fee structure for music tuition in 2019 is as follows:

Music Theory (Grds 1,2,3,4)	30 minutes per week. Compulsory for all girls taking an instrument who are ready for Grade 1 music theory or above.	R234 per year paid to Finance Office
Individual lesson	30 minutes per week	R1122 per term paid to the individual teacher on invoice termly in advance, or to Finance Office in the case of Mrs Hart, Miss Vollenhoven, Miss Peters or Mr Dennis

Individual lesson	60 minutes per week	R2084 per term paid to the individual teacher on invoice termly in advance, or to Finance Office in the case of Mrs Hart, Miss Vollenhoven, Miss Peters or Mr Dennis.
*Accompaniment fee	Per external exam	R128 per external exam paid directly to the accompanist, or to the Finance Office in the case of Mrs Hart, Miss Vollenhoven, Miss Peters or Mr Dennis.
Orff Group	30 minutes per week	R642 per term paid to the Finance Office
Marimba Teams	45 minutes per week	R754 per term paid to the Finance Office
Instrument Rental	per term. Maximum 2 terms	R600 per term paid to the Finance Office
All choirs / ensembles / orchestra.	Annual	R128 per year paid to the Finance Office. Only <u>one</u> amount of R118 is payable even if the learner is in more than one choir/ensemble.

What is an Orff instrument?

The Orff group is a fun and non-threatening way to introduce children to music. The learners play special melody instruments: (wooden xylophones, metalophones and glockenspiels) which produce a good sound immediately. Played together in a small ensemble, their use helps children become sensitive listeners and considerate participants. Composer Carl Orff and his associate Gunild Keetman evolved the basic texts for the Orff Schulwerk as models for teachers worldwide. Learners from the Orff Groups are given first consideration when applying for the marimba teams in Gr 5.

9. Music Books and Music Homework Diary

All music learners taking individual or small group lessons (not choirs or ensembles) should have a music homework diary. It can be a notebook brought from home. This serves several purposes:

- 1) As a record system for your daughter's lesson times
- 2) As a record of her progress
- 3) As a message book

The homework diary must please be signed after every lesson.

Music Tutors and Exam Books: When your daughter is ready for a new book, you will be notified and the details of the book provided. Feel free to purchase the book at any music store.

Alternatively make an EFT deposit and request that the book be delivered directly to the school by Jenny Coote from Vivo Music coote@mweb.co.za or 021 712-5335.

Photocopies are illegal as copyright laws do not allow learners to play from photocopies. Note that the school can be fined if we do not adhere to this law.

Parents interested in selling old music books or unused instruments are welcome to send the material to the music department, clearly marked. The condition of the book as well as the demand on the specific material will determine the sale.

10. Demerit system

At WGJS we use the following system:

- Warning
 - First Demerit
 - Second Demerit
 - Detention

This applies to the following:

- Late for rehearsal
- Arriving without music or instrument
- Lack of preparation/insufficient practice
- Not attending a performance (performances are compulsory)
- Not attending a rehearsal without an acceptable written excuse.
- Inappropriate behaviour

11. Music Bags

Learners are strongly encouraged to make use of the school music bag. This is available for purchase at a reasonable rate at the clothing shop. This will ensure that their books are protected. Since the bags are waterproof, they assist in keeping the contents dry during the winter months.

12. Musical Instruments

The school has some violins and clarinets available to rent. These may be rented for a maximum of six months after which the learners must purchase their own instruments. It is therefore in your best interest to purchase an instrument as soon as possible. Should the instrument be mishandled, then all cost of repairs or replacement is for the parents' account. Please ask the teacher for a rental agreement should you wish to pursue this option.

13. Theory Lessons

The teachers will teach their pupils basic theory in their individual lessons. When the learner reach theory at *Grade 1 music level* they are required to attend a 30-minute theory class once a

week. *The individual teacher will advise the parent when their child is ready to join this class.* All music students are required to attend this class as it is part of the skill of learning an instrument. They will also be required to sit at least one external theory exam per year.

Members of the marimba teams or Orff Ensemble are not required to do theory.

There are two theory classes per week. Girls attend one of these classes per week. We have purposefully kept the charge as low as possible. The lessons will be timetabled and held before school so as not to interfere with afternoon sport.

14. Exams and Eisteddfods

Experience has shown that learners who have a goal for which to strive: concerts, eisteddfods and exams, progress much faster than those who only want to play 'for fun'. The resulting enjoyment and satisfaction is often greater as a result. Should a student just wish to play 'for fun', then she would need to use the services of an external service provider. At Wynberg all learning should create excitement and a desire from the child to learn, **this is the fun part.**

Internal Music Exams

As a school, we strive for a high level of music education. We enjoy music and raise the standard to the very best of our ability. We are laying foundations so that girls can use their learning in higher level subjects if required, and this cannot simply be 'caught' up afterwards.

All learners who take music lessons at WGJS (except the marimba teams, African ensemble and Orff ensemble) play two compulsory internal music exams; one in the second term and one in the fourth term.

All girls play these internal music exams with the exception of the following:

- 1) Learners who have only just begun an instrument. For these learners a progress report is issued.
- 2) Learners who are in school Grade R, 1 or 2. For these learners a progress report is issued.
- 3) Learners who are/have played an external exam in the same term. The external report and mark take the place of the internal exam and report. This mark may also be used for the school Grade 7 music tech practical mark.

External Music Exams

When our learners reach a certain proficiency, they are required to take part in external exams and/or eisteddfods. **This decision is at the discretion of the teacher.** The girls are entered by WGJS and payment is made to the finance office. Exams and eisteddfods play an important role in determining musical proficiency since they use external moderators and set an impartial standard. They do, however, require substantial effort from both learner and teacher. In order to ensure that your daughter performs to the best of her ability, we ask that you encourage your daughter to be well prepared. The music fees usually include the time music educators spend on teaching extra lessons, preparing learners for, and participating in, external exams, Eisteddfods, competitions and teaching ensemble playing through the various ensembles and orchestras. However, if your daughter has not been practicing sufficiently and the teacher has to schedule extra lessons, these may be charged for. The teachers will do their part, but if there are students who are not prepared due to lack of practice and commitment, their names will be withdrawn and the fee will be lost.

15. Auditions for high school

Scholarship auditions: we would like to help our girls excel in their auditions for high school, and to this end request that the music teachers are informed timeously should your daughter wish to audition for any high school music scholarships so that we can help them prepare. Scholarship auditions happen in the **First Term** of the year. That means that preparation must start in the previous year.

Auditioning for music in Grade 8: Learners should have obtained at least a Grade 2 theory certificate and a Grade 2 practical certificate if they wish to be considered for the special music stream in high school. Auditions for this take place at the end of October every year. Girls must inform their teachers of their wish to pursue music at high school and then they will be helped to prepare for the audition.

The WGJS music staff wish to thank you for your support and cooperation. We look forward to an exciting musical year!

C Hart

Mrs C Hart
HEAD OF MUSIC

