

St Paul's Music Extra-Curricular Ensemble Policy 2025

1.1 Instrumental Music Lessons

- 1.1.1 All students learning with an Instrumental Tutor at St Paul's are required to be in an appropriate ensemble (see *Music Tuition Policy* 1.3).
- 1.1.2 St Paul's students are able to be in a School ensemble even if they do not have lessons with a St Paul's Instrumental Tutor, provided they are having private instrumental lessons with an instrumental music teacher outside school (with the exception of non-auditioned choirs). Students who have instrumental lessons outside school will be required to provide details for their instrumental music teacher so that the Music Department can make contact to confirm that the student is having regular lessons, and so directors can communicate ensemble practise requirements to instrumental teachers as necessary.

1.2 Ensemble Membership and Commitment

- 1.2.1 Students must perform in a large ensemble in order to be eligible to perform in a small ensemble. Essential ensemble skills are taught in these groups that are not duplicated in smaller groups (due to time restrictions).

To be in...	You must be a member of...
Big Band, Stage Band, Jazz Ensemble or Percussion Ensemble	Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Junior Wind Band, Acoustic Guitar Ensemble or Guitar Ensemble
St Paul's Singers	St Paul's Chorus

- 1.2.2 The St Paul's Music ensemble year runs from the beginning of Term 4 to the end of Term 3 the following year. Ensemble members **MUST** commit to a **full year of ensemble membership**. Students are not permitted to leave an ensemble part way through the year as each ensemble member has been carefully selected via audition to fill a specific role in the ensemble and any changes have a significant impact on the musical success of the group. Students need to consider this when joining an ensemble, particularly when planning the balance of extra-curricular activities, including some that may start later in the year.
- 1.2.3 It sometimes happens that students have clashes between ensemble rehearsals and School sports practices. The Sport and Music Departments work closely together to ensure that students are able to continue to be involved in all their extra-curricular activities. Students affected by clashes need to speak with both their ensemble director and sports coach to organise alternating between both commitments.
- 1.2.4 Ensemble members are required to be available for all concerts, competitions and other performances.
- Information will be sent in advance by the Ensemble Director and/or Head of Extra-curricular Music with details about arrival times, performance times, correct attire and other important information. For Junior School ensemble members, the email will go to parents/guardians. For Secondary ensemble members, the email will go directly to students. Once this information has been provided it is the responsibility of the ensemble member to be aware of all performance details.
 - All performance details will be updated as they come to hand via the 'Events' page on the St Paul's Music website. Details of performances are also published in the School newsletter ('The Link') and on the St Paul's Music Facebook page.
- 1.2.5 Rehearsal absences;
- Failure to attend rehearsals or performances without written notification in advance may result in a reduction of colour points, loss of embellishment privileges, possible reallocation to a different position/ensemble or the complete exclusion from the Instrumental Program (at the discretion of the Head of Extracurricular Music).
 - Students are expected to manage their time effectively and prioritise ensemble rehearsals as an existing commitment to be fulfilled each week. Incomplete homework/assignments or insufficient study is not a valid excuse for missing a rehearsal. If students are having trouble balancing commitments, they need to speak with their ensemble director for help with strategies for effective time management.
 - If a student is absent from school due to illness on the day of a rehearsal, they must contact the ensemble director directly via email to notify them of the absence.

1.2.6 Premier ensembles;

- i. Premier ensemble members (Wind Ensemble, Big Band, Chamber Strings, St Paul's Singers) may be required to have sectionals at the discretion of the ensemble director. This information will be communicated to students by the ensemble director during rehearsals and by email.
- ii. Members of premier ensembles are expected to regularly mentor students in younger ensembles by attending rehearsals. The minimum expected mentoring time is one hour per semester. The Music Captain responsible for each premier ensemble (Jazz, Band, Choral, Strings) will co-ordinate a mentoring roster.

1.2.7 Performance Uniform requirements

Students must always be in the correct uniform for their ensemble performances. The list of ensembles and their uniform requirements are below;

Ensemble	Uniform
Red Shirt Choir, Year 2 Strings, Year 4 Band, Junior School Choir and Junior Wind Band	Best school uniform
All other ensembles	<p><i>PERFORMANCE UNIFORM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * black St Paul's Music blouse or black St Paul's dress shirt (available from the Retail Shop) * black dress pants (not jeans) * black belt (for dress shirt) * black socks or knee-high stockings * black court shoes, ballet flats or school shoes
Premier ensembles: Big Band, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Strings, St Paul's Singers	Performance Uniform (see above), plus School blazer