

# **The Pinelands Primary School**



## **Music Department Policy**

Music plays an important role in every child's holistic development. Participation in music activities has many advantages, and we would therefore like to invite all learners at Pinelands Primary School to join our vibrant Music Department.

The Pinelands Primary School boasts a wide and varied music offering, taught by a team of internal and external music teachers. Internal music teachers are permanently employed by the school and external music teachers are contracted by the school to provide music tuition in particular instruments.

- ♪ Music tuition at The Pinelands Primary School includes recorder, voice, piano, guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, and music theory.
- ♪ We also offer participation in our school choirs (Junior and Senior), ensembles and orchestra at no additional cost to the parent.
- ♪ Evening concerts, competitions and other after-hour events are sensibly scheduled and communicated to parents well in advance.

## **1. Enrolment**

- 1.1 Should a child wish to join a choir; a music teacher may be approached. The Junior Choir rehearses Tuesdays during the second break and the Senior Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 14h30 until 15h10.  
*Due to the nature of the voice and choral development, choir members are expected to remain committed for a full year.*

- 1.2 For tuition in a particular instrument, parents need to complete an Application for Music Tuition form per learner.

- 1.3 Learners wishing to continue with music tuition need to submit a completed Application for Music Tuition form at the beginning of each year.

## **2. Lessons**

- 2.1 A learner is allowed tuition in only two instruments, provided that space is available.

- 2.2 Learners taking one instrument will receive one half-hour lesson per week or two half-hour lessons if indicated on the application form.

- 2.3 Learners who have completed one year of instrumental lessons will be offered theory of music classes at no additional cost.

- 2.4 Learners receive a minimum of eight lessons on average per instrument per term. However, the music teacher cannot be expected to reschedule lessons that were missed due to public holidays, absenteeism (without notice), school outings, or school functions.

- 2.5 Learners are encouraged to arrive punctually and to develop a sense of responsibility to attend their scheduled lessons. Foundation Phase learners will be collected by their music teachers until they are familiar with their music lesson routine. However, Intermediate and Senior Phase learners are expected to arrive independently for their lessons.

- 2.6 Academic work missed in class due to a music lesson needs to be updated by the learner.

- 2.7 Small group tuition is provided with no more than four learners in a group, and at a reduced cost. Often, when starting an instrument, learners find it challenging to play their instruments for 30 minutes at a time. In small group tuition, learners can benefit from interaction with

fellow young musicians, as it also provides a sense of security for the more introverted child. Small group tuition is available to all learners taking the recorder, violin and voice.

2.8 A music diary will be provided to your child at no cost.

### **3. Ensemble**

Since the nature of playing in an ensemble relies on interdependence, it is an important part of music making which encourages children to play or sing with greater accuracy. Depending on their music developmental level, learners will be invited to join an ensemble group. Ensembles are confirmed by the beginning of each year.

### **4. Orchestra**

- 4.1 New orchestra members are recommended at their music teacher's discretion and are accepted by the conductor on audition. Playing in the school orchestra is an extension of and an integral part of learners' practical instrument skills development.
- 4.2 Learners taking music lessons outside of school are also welcome to audition for the orchestra.
- 4.2 All rehearsals, orchestra weekend workshops and performances are compulsory.

### **5. Theory of Music**

- 5.1 Theory of Music is offered in addition to a practical lesson. These lessons come at no cost to the parents.
- 5.2 Music learners will receive one half-hour lesson weekly.
- 5.3 The Theory of Music syllabus is in line with that of the external music examination bodies in South Africa (namely Unisa, Trinity College and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music [ABRSM])

## 6. Hiring of Instruments

- 6.1 Learners must provide their instruments for instruction.
- 6.2 Except for recorders and pianos, the school has a selection of instruments at their disposal for hire, such as violins, guitars, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, French horns and trombones.
- 6.3 Subject to availability, instruments may be hired from the school for one year. Renewals may be considered once the hiring period has expired.
- 6.4 The annual hiring fee will be invoiced on a termly basis. (*Please note:* the hiring fees do not include insurance cover. Parents are strongly advised to make their insurance arrangements.)
- 6.5 Hiring forms will be issued and must be signed by the parent of any learner hiring an instrument before the instrument is entrusted to the learner. Instruments are serviced before issue.
- 6.6 Hired instruments that are returned are subject to an assessment of the condition and a sign-off.
- 6.7 Music Instruments are expensive. It is the responsibility of each learner to take care of their instruments as per their teachers' instructions. NO repairs may be done unless the music teacher refers a qualified instrument repair specialist.
- 6.8 Parents will be held liable for any loss or damages.

## 7. Music Fees

- 7.1 **Music fees reflect a full term's tuition and are not monthly or hourly fees.**
- 7.2 Parents will be invoiced termly for their child's Music fees. No debit orders will be accepted.
- 7.3 *External music staff may request and arrange payment over 10, 11 or 12 months, termly, or annually, with the tuition fees total equivalent to the annual Pinelands Primary School music fees.*

7.4 Since music teachers' incomes are reliant on music fees, please note that music fees are expected to be paid regularly and in full.

7.5 One term's notice is required in writing from parents who wish their child to discontinue lessons.

This notice period enables music teachers to find replacements, which avoids loss of income. Should a parent or guardian notify the music teacher by the tenth school day of the term in writing of their wish to stop music, it will be actioned in that same term. If notification is received after the tenth school day of the term, it will be actioned at the end of the term. Please note, that non-compliance will result in a full notice period being charged.

7.6 In the event of non-payment of music fees, there will be a suspension of music lessons until the respective fee/s have been paid.

7.7 As per the School Fee Policy, no learner will be accepted for any music activity or lesson that carries a cost, if the school fee account is not in good standing.

#### 7.8 The Music Fees for 2025:

	<b>2025 Fees (per term)</b>
One individual lesson per week	R1 463,00
Two individual lessons per week	R2 431,00
One group lesson per week	R728,00
Instrument Hiring Fee	R347,00

#### 7.9 Other Music Fees for 2025 (*available for purchase at the uniform shop*)

Clarinet and Saxophone Reeds	R70,00
Recorders (Descant)	R100,00
Violin String (per strings)	R50,00

## **8. Accompanists**

Should the accompanying services of a teacher in The Pinelands Primary School Music Department be required, it will be on a private basis and the parents should negotiate fees and rehearsal times directly with the teacher concerned.

## **9. Music Examinations and Eisteddfod**

- 9.1 School Music Reports are issued at the end of Terms 2 and 4.
- 9.2 Parents are required to make an appointment with their child's music teacher at the parent-teacher interviews in the second and third term to discuss their children's progress.
- 9.3 Learners wishing to participate in external music examinations or Eisteddfod may do so at the music teacher's discretion and with the parent's consent.
- 9.4 Parents are welcome to peruse the contents of the external music exam or Eisteddfod syllabus. Please arrange this with your child's music teacher.

## **10. General**

- 10.1 The music diary must be signed weekly by the parent
- 10.2 Learners should have the following items at every music lesson: music diary, music books/files, and music instrument (where applicable). In addition to this, a 20-page pocket file for extra worksheets may be requested by the teacher.
- 10.3 Daily home practise is a good habit to ensure progress and it is therefore essential that music learners practise regularly.

## **11. Music Concerts/Public Performances**

Learners who take music lessons at school are eligible to perform at all the relevant school music concerts.

Learners taking music at or outside of school may be invited to perform at assemblies with the approval of a music teacher. Should there be too many music items for a specific assembly, preference will be given to learners taking music lessons at The Pinelands Primary School.

To showcase the year's work for all learners who take music lessons at our school, music learners will be encouraged to perform at the annual music showcase to celebrate their dedication and achievements with friends and family.

***January 2024***