

Bilgola Plateau Public School Band Program Parent Handbook 2026



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Section 1: Introduction to the Bands and Band Director

1. Introduction to the Bands and Band Director

The Bilgola Plateau Public School (BPPS) Band Program offers students a rewarding opportunity to develop musical skills, confidence, and teamwork through instrumental music education.

Our program consists of two levels:

- **Junior Band:** For students in Years 2 and 3, including those with no prior experience or learning a secondary instrument.
- **Senior Band:** For returning students or those with more experience.

Our Band Director is Monique Reeves, a passionate and experienced music educator. Monique fosters a positive and inclusive learning environment that encourages musical growth, creativity, and collaboration.

The program is supported by the school's P&C Association and a small team of parent volunteers who make up the Band Committee.

Section 2: BPPS Band Program

2. BPPS Band Program

Band Committee

The Band Program is overseen by a small committee of volunteer parents, in collaboration with the school and the P&C. The committee supports the day-to-day operation of the program, including enrolments, tutor coordination, communications, equipment hire, fundraising, and events.

Communication with Parents

Band-related updates are shared through:

- Email
- Band specific WhatsApp groups

The Band Committee and Band Director work closely with families to ensure clear, timely, and supportive communication throughout the year.

Section 3: Commitment and Expectations

3. Commitment and Expectations

Band Student Behaviour

Students are expected to:

- **Attend rehearsals on time and be well practice**
- **Attend scheduled performances**
- **Show respect to the Band Director, tutors, and peers**
- **Care for instruments and music**
- **Follow rehearsal and performance guidelines**

Disruptive behaviour may result in a discussion with parents, a requirement for a parent to attend rehearsals or temporary suspension from the program.

Band Rehearsals 2026

- **Junior Band rehearses once per week before school (day TBA)**
 - **Senior Band rehearses once per week before school (day TBA)**
 - **Rehearsal schedules are shared at the start of each term**
 - **Strong and punctual attendance is expected unless prior notice is given**
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Private Music Tuition

There is an expectation that each student enrolled in the Bilgola Plateau Public School Band Program will attend one private (or group, if appropriate) lesson per week with a qualified tutor outside of school hours.

Don't worry — the Band Committee provides a list of recommended local tutors to help families arrange lessons once students are enrolled.

Music Practice at Home

Students are encouraged to:

- **Practise at home 3–4 times per week, starting with 10–15 minutes**
- **Focus on warm-ups, scales, and assigned pieces**
- **Use a music stand and quiet space where possible**
- **Consistency is more important than length!**

Just as learning to read is a shared journey between educators, parents and the student, so too is learning a musical instrument. Especially, in the early stages of band, we encourage parents to sit in on their child's private music lessons from time to time. This allows you to better understand what they're working on and how you can support them at home. Regularly supervising practice - especially in the initial years - helps build good habits, reinforces progress and shows your child the value you see in their musical education.

Performances & Events

The band performs at a range of school and community events, including:

- **School assemblies**
- **Twilight concerts**
- **Band Jam**
- **Local community music festivals (e.g. *Northern Beaches Instrument Festival*)**
- **End-of-year concert**

Families will be notified of performance dates and uniform requirements in advance.

Band Jam 2026

Band Jam is a highlight of the year — a fun, two-day rehearsal and concert experience over a weekend, where students participate in instrument-specific tutorials with expert tutors from across the music industry.

It culminates in a concert performance showcasing students' progress and teamwork.

Attendance is mandatory and parent help is expected.

Dates and further information will be advised closer to the time.

Parent help

The BPPS Band Program is run by parent volunteers. To ensure its continued success and to keep down costs, the program relies on the active involvement of all band families.

Parents are asked to assist in a variety of ways such as photocopying music, helping to supervise at performance events, and assisting rehearsal setup and packup. We recognise that working hours and other family commitments mean that not everyone can help in the same way, however, there are many and varied ways to assist.

To help our youngest musicians settle into the band routine, we also ask that each family commit to attending at least one Junior Band rehearsal during Term 1. Music experience is not required! A signup roster will be shared at the beginning of the year.

Section 4: Uniform and Equipment

4. Uniform and Equipment

Band Uniform (*for formal performances*)

- Bilgola school band shirt (available via uniform shop or Flexischools)
- Girls: Tartan pants or black long pants
- Boys: Navy blue winter trousers
- All students: Navy socks and black enclosed shoes

This uniform ensures a professional and unified appearance for public performances.

Equipment Requirements

Every student must bring the following to each rehearsal and performance:

- Instrument (in working condition)
 - Music folder (provided) with current sheet music
 - Instrument-specific accessories (e.g. reeds, valve oil, drumsticks)
 - Water bottle (labelled)
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Sheet Music

Sheet music will be provided and should be kept organised in a labelled folder. Lost or damaged music should be replaced promptly by notifying the Band Committee or Band Director.

Section 5: Musical Instruments

5. Musical Instruments

School Instrument Hire

Students may purchase instruments through the P & C Band Program. The annual hire fee is between \$150 - \$300, which includes servicing and basic maintenance. A discount or waiver of hire fees may be offered for instruments needed to balance the band.

Instrument availability may be limited — preference is given to younger or beginner students where needed.

Purchasing Your Own Instrument

Families are welcome to purchase their own instrument. We recommend:

- Buying from a trusted music store and purchasing trusted instrument brands
 - Avoiding very cheap online options that may not be playable
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General Band Equipment

Students are responsible for having appropriate supplies:

- Brass: Valve oil, mouthpiece brush
- Woodwind: At least 3 spare reeds, pull-through cloth
- Percussion: Drumsticks, labelled case
- All: Music folder (provided), pencil, labelled water bottle

Section 6: Band Fees & Instrument Hire Costs

6. Band Fees & Instrument Hire Costs

Tuition Fees (*billed twice per year*)

- All Band students: \$270 per semester (based on 2025 fees, there may be a small increase in 2026)
- Total annual cost: \$540

Joining the BPPS Band program is a year long commitment. As the program relies on annual planning for tutors, rehearsals and performances, we ask families to commit for the full school year. Band fees are billed in term 1 and term 3 i.e. at the beginning of each semester. Please note that if you choose to withdraw your child at the end of semester 1, you will still be invoiced for the full semester as your child's place in the program was held and resourced accordingly. We encourage families to carefully consider this commitment before enrolling as it ensures consistency for students, and the broader band community.

Start out pack

All new joiners to the BPPS Band program will be issued a "Start out pack" and will be invoiced for this along with their initial band fees. This pack includes the selected music method book as chosen by the Band Director, as well as an A4 Band Folder to contain any loose sheet music.

Instrument Fees

- School Instrument Hire: \$150-300 per year (if applicable)
- Equipment Maintenance Levy: \$60 per year
(*Applies to percussion and key students only*)
- The instrument fee is charged with the Semester 1 invoice.

Please note that Band Jam incurs an additional fee to cover the associated costs (e.g. Band Director and tutor fees, food and, typically, a fun incursion). Details will be shared in advance. As a reference point, the cost of 2025 Band Jam was \$180.00

Invoices are issued via the school's billing system. Prompt payment helps keep the program running smoothly for all students.

Section 7: Band Calendar 2026 TBA

7. Band Calendar

Term 4 2025

- **Band placements confirmed**
- **Private (or group) lessons to commence where possible**
- **Attend some rehearsals towards the end of term and participate in the Christmas End of Year Open Rehearsal**
- **Attend Arts Under the Stars event showcasing our Junior and Senior Bands**

Term 1 2026

- **Weekly rehearsals commence**
- **Continue with weekly private tutorials**

Term 2

- **Band Jam 2026**
- **Perform at a local music festival**

Term 3

- **Assembly Performances**
- **Combined Workshop and Concert with Avalon Public School Band**
- **Possible incursion experience with visiting bands**

Term 4

- **Arts Under the Stars**
- **Christmas End of Year Open Rehearsal for parents**
- **Band handovers for 2027**

Specific dates are shared each term via email and band specific WhatsApp groups.

Section 8: Band Committee

8. Band Committee

2025 Committee Contacts

- Band Coordinator – Jana Leslie
- Instrument Hire Coordinator – Amy Curl
- Communications – Jane Goddard and Kate Whitelaw
- General Committee Support – Jane Goddard and Kate Whitelaw

The committee is made up of parent volunteers. New members are welcome anytime!

For 2026, a Junior Band parent will be required to join the Committee. Have a think about whether this is your way to get involved!

Band Committee Meetings

The committee meets once per term. Meetings are open to all interested parents, and help with uniforms, events, or logistics is always appreciated.



Appendix: Performance Day Checklist



Performance Day Checklist

Use this to help your child feel ready and confident on performance days.



Uniform

- Bilgola band shirt (via uniform shop or Flexischools)
- Girls: Tartan or black pants
- Boys: Navy blue winter trousers
- Navy socks
- Black enclosed shoes

Equipment

- **Instrument (clean and in working order)**
- **Music folder with all sheet music**
- **Reeds / valve oil / drumsticks (as applicable)**
- **Water bottle (labelled)**

Before the Event

- **Eat a good meal**
 - **Arrive at venue on time (arrival times will be advised)**
 - **Be dressed and tuned before the call time**
 - **Label all items clearly**
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