

# Ukulele Handbook

## Ukulele

- Weekly group lessons covering:
  - strumming techniques
  - following a rhythmical pulse
  - playing together
  - fingering for chords
- Practise for at least 10 minutes, 5 times a week so you remember what you have learnt and it is easy to play!
- Enjoy yourself when you practice and never rush



## Beginner

- learn how to read music
- learn music in a practical way
- establish a good foundation of music experience
- strengthen their technique
- at this level can play many different pieces

## Developing

- have been learning ukulele already or a similar instrument
  - are encouraged to learn more
  - motivated to learn more challenging pieces
- entry into this group is at the Teacher's

## Types of Lessons

### Large Group Lesson

between 9 – 15 students

This style of lesson is designed as an introduction to the instrument where all students learn simultaneously on their respective instrument. The lesson is conducted with mostly group teaching and a limited amount of individual student-teacher time.

(New for 2018)

### Group 3-4 Lesson

between 3-4 students

The lesson is conducted with a mix of group teaching and individual student-teacher time.

(New for 2018)

### Group 2 Lesson

2 students

The lesson is conducted with limited group teaching time and significant individual student-teacher time.

# Lesson Calendar

- Students receive 32 weeks tuition over the course of the year, divided into 3 Cycles.
- For specific dates, please see current Guidelines and Payment Schedule which is a separate document and can be found on the school Website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
<b>Cycle 1</b> Mid Feb – Mid May	<b>Cycle 2</b> Mid May – Mid Aug	<b>Cycle 3</b> Mid Aug – Nov	<b>Make-up Lessons</b> Nov – Mid Dec
11 lessons	11 lessons	10 lessons	

- Lessons are timetabled throughout the School day.
- They are organized, whenever possible, not to clash with Specialist Class lessons.
- Initial commitment of at least one cycle.
- A student who attends lessons on time and comes fully equipped, benefits most during the total lesson time.
- Lessons may be grouped with other students prior to a performance, in order for small ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.

# Solo and Ensemble Performing

- Concerts encourage and motivate a student to focus on a goal.
- The experience develops the student's ability to feel comfortable when performing.
- It highlights the progress of a student from year to year.
- Two major performances are arranged each year.

## Percussion Concert – Term 2

- Solos and/or small group items.
- Larger ensembles.
- Students organize the concert; learn stage management and announcing of items.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher
- A notice is sent to students a few weeks before the concert.

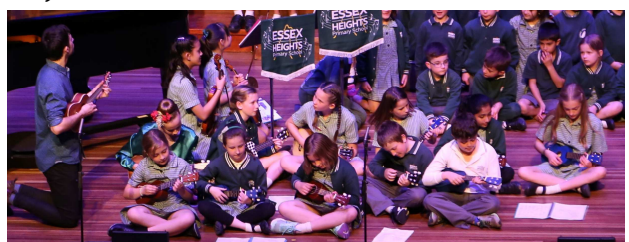
## Showcase – Term 4

- Whole school event which includes choirs, marimba groups and all large instrumental ensembles.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.



*"I just wanted to say thanks for all the incredible work you and the Music staff put into Showcase last Friday night, the standard seems to be getting higher every year! I enjoyed the arrangement of 'Trepak' by Tchaikovsky and am glad that my daughter was able to be part of it. I really enjoyed the whole night; the kids were great!!"*

*Penny (Parent of a Year 6)*



## Purchase of an instrument

- A broad range of soprano ukuleles are available to purchase at varying costs. It is recommended that students purchase a reasonable quality ukulele to get the most satisfaction out of their instrument (as cheaper models are prone to going out of tune easily).
- Ukuleles can be purchased at most music shops.
- We recommend Mahalo Soprano ukulele which is usually around \$35-40.
- Avoid buying a ukulele from a supermarket or toy shop.



## What you need for the first lesson

### Music Book

- An A4 display book with plastic inserts for holding solo pieces of music.

### Music Record Book

- Each student is required to use the Music Record Book supplied by the School at the first lesson, with a \$10 charge per book on your School statement.
- Sometimes called a "Little Green Book" or "Music Diary"
- This is the main communication tool between teachers, parents and the student.
  - Teachers write weekly goals to be achieved, progressive lesson count and important messages.
  - It should be kept with the student's music books and be brought to each lesson.
- Replacement books can be requested from the Instrumental Teacher and will be charged on your School statement.
- When a student fails to bring their Music Record Book to 4 consecutive lessons, a new book will automatically be provided and charged on the School statement.

## Practice

- A student should be encouraged by parents to establish a regular practice routine.
- A beginning student can manage at least 10 minutes per practice session.
- A student should aim to practise between 5 to 7 days a week.
- Practice should be in a room with limited distractions.
- A practice register will be provided to assist students in monitoring their practice routine.

## Group Lessons

- Large Group lessons are based on the equivalent of an ensemble class.
- A student is encouraged to advise the Instrumental Teacher when unable to attend a lesson or a parent is to notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator [kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au) as soon as possible prior to the lesson.
- Large Group Classes will not be replaced for student absence, cancelled classes, school organized events, Industrial Action or public holidays.
- Group 3-4 and Group 2, will have 4 possible makeup lessons for the year.

## Instrumental Music Guidelines Payment Structure and Schedule

These two pages have been combined into a separate document called "Guidelines and Payment Structure (current year)". It can be found on the school website <http://www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au/page/76/Instrumental-Music-Program>



# Enrolment for Ukulele Lessons

Student

Class

## 1 Select your Instrument

☒

Ukulele

## 2 Have you had lessons before?

☐  
☐

No, go to question 4

Yes, go to question 3

## 3 How long have you been learning?

Years/terms

## 4 Do you have a Ukulele?

☐  
☐

Yes, go to question 5

No, I would like further information,  
please. Go to question 5

## 5 Type of Lesson

☐  
☐  
☐

Large Group Class

Group 3-4

Group 2

## 6 Special requests:

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## Parent/Guardian Authorization

- 1 I agree with the current Guidelines and Payment Schedule and conditions set out in the Ukulele Handbook.
- 2 I have discussed the conditions with my child and the responsibilities are understood.
- 3 The enrolment is ongoing until the School receives a withdrawal in writing or my child leaves the school.
- 4 I agree to my contact details being available to the Instrumental Teacher.

Name

Phone

Home:

Work:

Mobile

Email

Signature

/ /20

Office Use:	Date received	MM
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