



## About the instruments...

The following information on popular classes offered at SDMS may assist you in your selection of an instrument to learn. The minimum starting age is approximate, as sometimes students will need to have reached a particular size to be able to successfully play the instrument. Feel free to contact the tutor if you would like more information. All students will need an instrument to practice on at home.

### Strings Violin & Viola from Year 3, 'Cello from Year 3


 The *violin*, *viola* and *violoncello* are in large demand in orchestras and chamber music groups. They range from  $\frac{1}{4}$  size to full size instruments to suit various ages. The *violin* is the most popular of the orchestral strings and has the highest pitch range. The *viola* produces a beautiful haunting tone while the *cello* has a strong, warm tone.

### Woodwind Recorder from Year 2, Flute & Clarinet from Year 4, Sax from Year 6

 Many students begin on an inexpensive *recorder* and may later move to other instruments. The *flute* produces a clear, high tone. The *clarinet* is a reed instrument that is versatile and can play a wide range of music. Some students learn *clarinet* then move to the *saxophone*, popular as a jazz/combo instrument. Please contact Janet if you are unsure on the suitability of an instrument for your child.



### Brass Trumpet & Cornet from Year 3/4, Trombone from Year 7

 The *trumpet*, *cornet*, *trombone* are the power instruments. To be able to play them students must have their two front teeth! The *trumpet* makes a high, clear, bright sound, while the *cornet* is a little softer and easier to make a sound with. The *trombone* has a wide tonal range.

### Percussion/Drums from Year 3

Students will learn playing techniques for a wide range of percussion instruments such as the triangle, maracas, claves, glockenspiel and drum, marimba and also work creatively

to compose their own pieces. Drum kit playing is also part of this course.



### Piano/Keyboard from Year 3

Classes take place in our keyboard laboratory with touch-sensitive keyboards. This means that students can learn to play with the musical expression necessary for good *piano* playing. Classes at the keyboard lab will sometimes include the use of the various sounds and rhythms of the *keyboard* to make learning fun, and skills learned will be applicable to those with either a *keyboard* or *piano* at home.



### Guitar (acoustic) from Year 4

Classes cover chord reading and popular playing styles. Most students use a  $\frac{3}{4}$  size instrument.



### Performance Ensemble



Playing in a performance group is a wonderful way to learn how to play with other musicians and also have a lot of fun. Suitable for strings, woodwind, brass and percussion.



Acceptance in **Performance Ensemble** is by arrangement with the SDMS director.