

# MUSIC AT ST JOSEPH'S MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL

- ◆ Curriculum
- ◆ Performance
- ◆ Conducting
- ◆ Composing
- ◆ Listening
- ◆ Choir
- ◆ Concerts
- ◆ Singing
- ◆ Traditional Music
- ◆ Instrumental Tuition



St Joseph's Mercy Secondary School has a thriving music programme. The study of Music is a rich experience that develops cognition, memory skills, emotional intelligence and performance skills. We look forward to your daughter joining our school community and contributing to the musical life of the school.

## WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Studies show that the kind of mental processes that take place during music lessons boost learning in many other areas. Research proves that **students who study Music or learn a musical instrument are more likely to attain higher grades in Maths, Science and Languages**. Students with musical training also show significantly improved verbal memory.



Music students are more likely to be happy and successful in life: participation in the Arts brings psychological, physical and spiritual benefits. Music education brings “Three Cs” to a student’s life: Confidence, Creativity and Co-ordination. These gifts are carried beyond the five or six years that students spend in school into adulthood. Playing a musical instrument or singing in a group also develops social

interaction and recreational skills as well as leading to income and employment opportunities.

Music is a very popular option for Leaving Certificate students. Department of Education figures demonstrate that **over 70% of all Music students achieve a grade B3 or higher** at Higher Level in the exam. This is a higher success rate than any other subject and gives Music students a better range of options when choosing their college courses. Employers also look for well-balanced students with skills and interests from across a variety of disciplines.





## FACILITIES

The Department of Music in Mercy Navan has **state-of-the-art facilities**: a **choir room**, **specialist music classrooms**, and eight **rehearsal/tuition rooms**, each with piano. Our **Keyboard Studio** enables every Music student to learn the basics of keyboard and develop important skills such as co-ordination and proficiency in musicianship. We have a comprehensive **CD and Music Resource Library**. All computers in the main Computer Room have **Sibelius notation software** used for Music Technology and Composing. Our **Recording equipment** allows students to learn the basics of recording and sound engineering, as well as producing high quality audio recordings of our fine choirs, music groups and instrumentalists.

## CHOIR

All students at St Joseph's participate in Choir and there are twelve choirs in the school. From rehearsals to concerts, our students are introduced to a wide range of choral music from medieval to popular, and music by contemporary living composers. Participating in Choir gives students greater confidence singing solo and in smaller groups, helping them prepare for Junior and Leaving Certificate Practical Examinations.



Students may also audition for **Vocalise**, an extra-curricular choir that has competed successfully in national choral festivals and competitions.

## SCHOLA



The Schola at St Joseph's is an innovative programme where students from all years are given opportunities to study **liturgical music**. This programme allows students to study liturgical repertoire, **chant, organ, cantoring, choral singing and direction, and liturgy**. Practical community experience is central: Schola students lead singing and playing at mass and other religious services in St Mary's Church, Navan. Those involved in the programme are expected to commit to their instrumental tuition and to meet weekly for liturgical choir. Students are subsidised to attend workshops with leading choral specialists and liturgical composers. The programme is supported by the parish of St Mary's, Navan and the Bishop of Meath. Admission to the programme is by informal interview and is open to all students. To apply, please complete and return the application form at the end of this leaflet.



## INSTRUMENTAL TUITION PROGRAMME

We encourage all students to learn an instrument during their time in St Joseph's and we facilitate this by providing a panel of visiting instrumental teachers who work weekly with students. We currently offer lessons in the following instruments:



Piano	Guitar	Voice	Keyboard	Violin
Clarinet	Flute	Organ	Recorder	Saxophone

Students are prepared for **RIAM, ABRSM and VCM grade examinations**, and are coached for **Junior and Leaving Certificate** practical exams. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in concerts regularly organised by the Music Department.

Lessons are timetabled on a rotating basis so students do not miss the same subject class each week. Lessons are undertaken for a full semester at a time: semesters run from **September to January**, and from **February to May**. A written report outlining progress is issued at the end of each semester.

Students are expected to have their own instruments. However, we can make arrangements for students to practise on school instruments during school hours. Rehearsal rooms are available before and after school and during lunchtime. We can also advise on hire or purchase of musical instruments.

**Fees for each semester of individual lessons are €230.** All fees are paid directly to the tutors. A deposit of €50 is paid before lessons begin; the balance of fees is paid during the first two weeks of lessons. We offer particularly competitive rates and studying a musical instrument within the school is significantly better value than outside of school.

**Group lessons**, up to a maximum of three students, can also be arranged in **keyboard, guitar and wind** ensemble. **Group singing** is offered to Junior and Leaving Certificate Music students in preparation for practical exams. **Fees for group lessons are €120 per semester.**

Individual tuition in a chosen instrument gives an added dimension to the study of Music and contributes to your daughter's holistic development. Playing music creates opportunities for recreation, social interaction, and for extra employment and income.



Please complete and return the **application form** at the end of this leaflet to enrol on our Tuition Programme.

## ENQUIRIES

T: 046 902 1830

E: [musicatmercy@gmail.com](mailto:musicatmercy@gmail.com)

[www.musicatmercy.weebly.com](http://www.musicatmercy.weebly.com)

# INSTRUMENTAL TUITION PROGRAMME

## APPLICATION / ENROLMENT FORM



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Lesson: ☐ Group Lesson: ☐

Name of other student(s) in group: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor in previous year (if continuing): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's / Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home / Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPOSIT OF €50.00 ONLY ENCLOSED ☐

Deposits must be paid at the beginning of each semester to guarantee a place.

Semester 1 Deposit is payable by Sept 1.

Semester 2 Deposit is payable by Jan 15.

**BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL LESSONS: €180.00** (TOTAL €230)

**BALANCE FOR GROUP LESSONS: €70.00** (TOTAL €120)

The balance of fees **must** be paid directly to the tutor within three weeks of commencing lessons. **Lessons will be discontinued if fees are not paid.**

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## SCHOLA PROGRAMME

### APPLICATION FORM

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's / Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home / Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission to Schola is by informal interview and this takes place before the next academic year. Students will be asked about their musical experience and interests and may be asked to perform one short piece of their own choice along with a simple musicianship test.