



MUSIC/DANCE PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2026



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WELCOME TO THE NORTHCROSS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MUSIC/DANCE PROGRAM

Northcross Christian School in partnership with Teaching Services Australia (TSA) welcomes you to the Northcross Christian School Music/Dance Program!

This booklet will give families an overview of how the music/dance programs operate.

Participating in the Music/Dance Program at Northcross is a fun and valuable learning experience for students. Through consistent effort and regular practice, students will develop their own creative skills. Those students participating in ensembles will enjoy the excitement of and pleasure of performing as a group in front of peers and the school community.

Joining the music/dance program provides a great opportunity for students across stages to get to know each other better.

Please review this handbook with your child. It is important that all members of the music/dance program and their parents/guardians understand the conditions of membership.

Should you have any queries, concerns or suggestions, contact should first be made through Teaching Services Australia. We look forward to your family's involvement in the Music/Dance Program!

ABOUT US

The Northcross Christian School Music/Dance Program was taken over by Teaching Services Australia in Term 2 of 2025.

Teaching Services Australia is a family-owned company which provides band programs and instrumental tuition throughout greater Sydney and the Central Coast. Established in 1998 with a focus on primary school instrumental band tuition, TSA now provides a diverse range of instrumental tuition options in over 60 schools.

At TSA we pride ourselves on providing equitable and effective tuition as a stepping stone to further music education or just a fun, social musical experience. We believe that attracting and retaining quality teaching staff and providing our students with a variety of musical experiences is the key to any kind of music education.

The program at Northcross consists of 5 different streams – Private Music Tuition, Orchestra, Rock Band, Junior Dance and Senior Dance.

Students from K-6 are eligible to join private music tuition and dance groups. Orchestra and Rock Band participation is subject to experience.

Each year the ensembles perform at school events such as Northcross Live. They also perform at school assemblies.

COMMUNICATION

The main form of communication between families & TSA happens via email and the TSA website. We strive to give as much notice and information as possible of upcoming events with notes sent directly to families via email.

Music/Dance administration is run separately from the school office. Families should contact TSA directly by email or phone:

Email: info@teachingservices.com.au

Phone: 9651 7333 ext2

Website: www.teachingservices.com.au

1. PROGRAM OUTLINE

JOINING THE PROGRAM

The Music/Dance Program is open to all students from Years K-6. An intake is held at the end of each year for the next calendar year, with online enrolment.

The structure of the program is as follows:

- **Private Music Tuition**

Any student from K-6 can enroll for private music tuition. No musical experience is required. We offer before/after school lessons as well as during school lessons.

Private lessons are 30-minute one on one lessons with a member of our specialty staff on the school grounds.

- **Orchestra**

Students from Year 3 and above are welcome to join the Orchestra. Experienced players are preferred however; considerations can be made for beginner students to join given they are receiving private lessons. All students who are in the Orchestra must be receiving private lessons on their instrument either at school with our teachers or through an external provider.

- **Rock Band**

The Rock Band consists of students in Grade 3 and above at school. Students must be assessed and/or provide evidence of their skill prior to joining. Students will be allocated to either Intermediate or Performance Rock Band based on their skills/experience. All students who are in the Rock Band must be receiving private lessons on their instrument either at school or through an external provider.

- **Junior Dance**

Any student in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 can join the Junior Dance Group. No experience is required. There is no minimum requirement for Junior Dance members – no formal audition is required.

- **Senior Dance**

Any student in Year 3-6 can join the Senior Dance Group. No experience is required. There is no minimum requirement for Senior Dance members – no formal audition is required.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

There are limited spots for private music lessons in all instruments. ***Hence, there is no guarantee a student will be allocated a spot before/after school OR during school lessons even when these options are selected.*** Parents can request specific time slots but unfortunately due to scheduling restrictions we cannot guarantee you will be assigned to what you request. There are many aspects which affect the scheduling, and we do our best to ensure lessons do not clash with specific school activities. Lessons are scheduled based on an alternating timetable between ODD and EVEN weeks. This is to try to ensure that students do not miss out on the same class each week – however this can't be guaranteed in certain situations.

SEMESTER REPORTS

All students enrolled in private music tuition will receive a semester report from their instrument teacher outlining their progress throughout the year, as well as what the student should continue to work on. Please be considerate of the teacher's time and understand they have many reports to write each semester – if you would like any additional feedback regarding your child's progress please reach out to the program director (Lexie Miesch) and she will contact the teacher directly for more information.

MUSIC EXAMS

A few of our teachers are qualified to prepare students for **AMEB, Trinity and Rock School examinations**. If you are interested in enrolling your child into one of these music exams, please contact the program director via email – lexie@teachingservices.com.au. Parents are encouraged to enrol their child (as you will be able to choose a suitable location and you know the required personal details of your child) however, TSA can enrol students into these exams, however due to the location of our office it may cause the exam to be at an inconvenient location for you.

2. INSTRUMENT SELECTION

INSTRUMENTS

Students will attend an instrument demonstration concert at school, and then have an opportunity to meet a tutor to run through some tests (test how easily they can shape their mouth, hand size, etc.) A recommendation for the most suitable instrument for each student is made. It is important that a student is comfortable with their choice of instrument with the aim of creating a somewhat balanced band.

The instruments available to learn through PRIVATE TUITION include:

Flute	Trombone	Bass Guitar	Vocal
Clarinet	Baritone	Acoustic Guitar	Viola
Alto Saxophone	Drums	Electric Guitar	Violin
Trumpet	Piano	Ukulele	Cello

INSTRUMENT HIRE

Brand new instruments may be hired from TSA for a monthly fee. TSA hires out brand-new instruments so that parents may have the option to buy-out their instrument if they choose. The following instruments are available for hire through the TSA hire scheme:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Baritone Horn
- Viola
- Violin
- Cello
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Piano (keyboard)

Should your instrument require service or repair please contact TSA and they will direct you to the relevant instrument repairer for assessment or repairs.

INSTRUMENT PURCHASE

TSA offers discounted new and secondhand instruments for purchase to Northcross students, which come serviced, cleaned and with a balance of warranty. Please contact TSA for more information on instrument purchases. Parents are advised to only purchase quality, name brand instruments. A second-hand instrument of a good brand is far superior to a new, cheap instrument sold by a major retail store.

CARE OF INSTRUMENTS

Students are asked to look after their own instrument and to respect others' instruments. Students should ask their class teacher if they may store their instrument in their classroom on the day of their lesson (if required) or it can be stored in the music room if the classroom is not suitable. While the School will help students to care for their instruments by finding an indoor place for them, families are ultimately responsible for the instrument and its safekeeping.

Please check with your tutor for information on how to clean and care for your specific instrument.

- Instrument cases should be clearly labeled with name, address, telephone number and school. This ensures instruments are not mixed up and helps in their recovery if they are left on public transportation.
- Please be advised that exposure to sun and hot vehicles can damage the case and the instrument.
- Any malfunction of, or damage to hired instruments must be brought to the attention of TSA immediately. Do not attempt DIY repairs of instruments.

3. GROUP ENSEMBLES

ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

Ensemble	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Location
Orchestra	Wednesday	3:00-4:30pm	RBC Auditorium
Rock Band (<i>Intermediate</i>)	Thursday	3:00-4:30pm	Library
Rock Band (<i>Performance</i>)	Thursday	7:45-8:45am	Library
Junior Dance	Friday	3:00-4:15pm	RBC Auditorium
Senior Dance	Thursday	3:00-4:15pm	RBC Auditorium

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

All ensemble members are expected to attend every practice as they are part of a team. If your child cannot attend a practice or performance, TSA should be notified by email as soon as possible. If an instrument is being repaired, or your child has a minor injury restricting them from activity, attendance is still required at rehearsal. It is important to be present to keep up with instructions and tuition given to your section and/or to the whole group. All music ensemble members must bring their music book/folder and instrument to each practice session.

If a student misses a rehearsal, you are NOT entitled to a make up or credit due to the nature of group lessons.

If your child is absent due to a school event and we have not been notified PRIOR to the term commencing the rehearsal fees will be forfeited and NO makeup is provided.

BEHAVIOUR DURING REHEARSAL

A high standard of self-discipline is required of each ensemble member. This includes good listening skills and teamwork. There will be times when students will be required to sit quietly and listen/watch other members of the group. All students are required to assist with the setting up of band equipment before rehearsals and packing it away again afterwards. Every student is expected to help. Students are not permitted to leave a rehearsal or performance until all the equipment (music stands, chairs, drum kit, etc.) have been packed away. This can be done quickly and easily if everyone co-operates and promotes good band etiquette.

PRACTISE AT HOME

Regular daily practice of ensemble music and dance routines is essential to keep up with the challenges and demands of the ensembles. If members fall behind, they may lose interest, feel discouraged and may also jeopardise the progress of the whole band.

Initially small amounts of regular practice are necessary (10-15 minutes at least four times per week). This will gradually expand to longer periods as your child improves. Practice needs to become a GOOD HABIT; this will only happen through repetition. Please encourage your child to practice.

ENSEMBLE EVENTS

Ensemble members are expected to participate in all ensemble activities. When a student is unable to attend a scheduled performance or event due to an unavoidable conflict, parents are to provide notice in advance to TSA. This is a courtesy to the conductor and to other members of the group, who depend on the whole group to be there and play their part.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM

Please advise the TSA office in writing if you intend to withdraw permanently from the music/dance program. No refund will be made for:

- Fees for the current term
- Hire fees
- Instrument purchase fee
- Accessory purchases

4. PROGRAM FEES

Music/Dance Program Fees

All program fees are invoiced by TSA at the beginning of each term. It's important that parents pay the fees promptly upon receipt of the invoices as these fees are required to cover all costs including wages for teachers and the administration of the program.

All Music/Dance Program fees are charged dependent on the number of weeks in a certain term. If a public holiday, pupil-free day or other 'whole school'/whole grade activity occurs, lessons will either be made up or credited. This includes events such as school camps.

If there is a whole school event during the day where students have time to make it back to school for the rehearsal, the program will still run, and no credits will be provided. This includes events such as the Swimming Carnival. The school will allow students who are part of an after-school activity travel back to school by bus.

If you have difficulties with payment or would like to discuss another method of payment please contact TSA. The purchase of consumables such as reeds or oils are not covered by instrument hire fees and are the responsibility of the instrument user.

Item	Amount
Private Music Lesson <i>(during school hours)</i>	\$50/week
Private Music Lesson <i>(before/after school)</i>	\$52/week
Junior Dance Rehearsal <i>(year K-2)</i>	\$17/week
Senior Dance Rehearsal <i>(year 3-6)</i>	\$17/week
Rock Band Rehearsal	\$18.50/week
Orchestra Rehearsal	\$18.50/week
Resource Levy (compulsory for all students) <i>Covers required resources such as music stands, dance costumes, speakers, music equipment, etc.</i>	\$10/term
Facility Hire (compulsory for all students) <i>The school charges TSA a facility hire for lessons to be held at the school</i>	\$10/term

5. ABSENCE POLICY (*Private Tuition Only*)

Teaching Services Australia is proud to offer a high quality and consistent team of music teachers. In order to attract our talented team, we commit to our teachers for a full term and guarantee their income. We also understand that 100% attendance isn't always possible for a student.

NOTIFIED ABSENCES

Before term commences > for any absences that we are notified about **before** lessons commence for the term – we will remove these lessons from the students' invoice, and they will not be payable.

After term commences > Once the term commences, we must be notified of a student's absence 24 hours prior to their lesson in order to guarantee a makeup lesson. If less than 24 hours' notice is provided, we will still endeavour to provide a makeup lesson for your child however there is NO guarantee. Be aware that make up lessons may happen at an inopportune time – if you choose to not accept the makeup time slot offered then your lessons fees will be forfeited for that class. Where a lesson cannot be rescheduled your tutor will provide you with an 'online lesson' instead (see below).

Lessons will *NOT* be made up when a student is present at school but fails to attend their lesson.

ABSENCE WITHOUT NOTICE

If you are unable to attend your lesson and DO NOT notify TSA in advance (before commencement of school day), this lesson will be forfeited and no makeup lesson/credit/online lesson will be provided.

SCHOOL EVENTS

All absences due to school events must be informed PRIOR to the lesson time – if TSA is not notified before the fact, there will be no makeup lesson offered and the lesson will be forfeited. TSA will work with the school to be aware of as many events as possible, however, this remains the responsibility of the parent to inform TSA in advance of the lesson.

TEACHER ABSENCE

Should your regular teacher be unwell, or otherwise unable to make the lesson, we will endeavour to provide a suitable substitute teacher or reschedule the lesson on a different day/time. If we are unable to provide a substitute teacher or reschedule, we will credit this lesson to your following term's invoice. Should your enrolment not continue into a subsequent term, this amount will be refunded at the close of the relevant term.

ONLINE LESSON POLICY

Where a student is unable to attend their regular lesson (notified prior) and the lesson cannot be rescheduled we will arrange an 'online lesson' in its place. Please note that if a make up lesson time is offered there will be NO online lesson provided even if the make up time slot is not accepted.

Online lessons will take place on the '**Practice Space App**'. Most 'online lessons' will be delivered in the form of a recorded mini lesson with teacher notes, links and other resources attached. Each recorded lesson will be prepared during the student's regular lesson time, by their regular teacher using the teacher's app account. This lesson will be directly uploaded to the students account and will be available for students to refer to as a learning resource for the remainder of the term. This Practice Space App is also available to provide access to other resources including a practise diary, learning goals and teacher correspondence. Students/parents will be given simple login information on enrolment. If you need help accessing this, please reach out to lexie@teachingservices.com.au for assistance.

****PLEASE NOTE:**

Online or rescheduled lessons will only be provided if the program director has been notified of a student's absence PRIOR to their lesson taking place.

All makeup lessons are to be organised and confirmed by program director – Lexie Miesch. DO NOT contact your child's music director directly to organise a makeup lesson.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

All private lessons and ensemble enrolments are a full-term commitment. Notice to withdraw from any program must be given prior to the commencement of the next school term. To secure your teacher and lesson time each term, enrolments are automatically renewed unless we are advised prior to the start of the new term. Unfortunately, withdrawals made mid-term are unable to be refunded or credited and make-up lessons are forfeited upon withdrawal and are also non-refundable.

6. PRACTICE SPACE APP

As outlined in Section 6. Teaching Services Australia uses an online program called 'Practice Space'. It is a program where students can communicate directly with their teachers for assistance during their home practice. Teachers can add personalised lessons and challenges to your child's profile, along with resources such as sheet music, recordings of repertoire and so much more. This program also acts as an incentive to get students to practice at home. When they complete a challenge or practice they receive gems – which can be used to redeem real tangible prizes.

This app is 100% free to use for families and can be downloaded on any mobile device or used on a laptop. To ensure your child gets the most benefit out of the music/dance program at Northcross, please ensure you download and set up an account for your child prior to the school term.

HOW TO SIGN UP?

1. Please visit <https://www.practicespaceapp.com/login> or scan the QR code and select Student to get started. Then click on sign up.
2. After setting up your email and password, please enter this Studio Code so you will be automatically attached to our profile **WD5CN9**
3. Select '**Lexie Miesch**' as your child's teacher – you will be assigned to the correct teacher once schedules have been finalized.



If you have any trouble signing up, please reach out to lexie@teachingservices.com.au for assistance.

At Northcross we want our students to develop these characteristics in their lives

COURAGE

Psalm 31:24

Recognising their worth is determined by God, students are equipped to be resilient and brave.

"I show courage when I try something new or do something I find difficult."

PASSION

Colossians 3:23-24

Students are encouraged to develop and use their gifts, talents and interests, with determination, in order to serve others.

"I have passions and I can bless others by developing them."

RESPECT

Romans 12:10

Each person feels a sense of belonging through authentic relationships while honouring the difference in others.

"I help others feel like they belong by being respectful of them."



NORTH+CROSS

WISDOM

Proverbs 19:20

By developing knowledge and skills, students learn about their world and are confident to take their unique place within it.

"I am becoming wise by learning and thinking about God's world and my place in it."

NURTURE

Ephesians 4:32

Students are encouraged to be compassionate in an environment where they are individually known and well loved.

"I am nurtured by those around me and I show kindness to others."