

ROZELLE PUBLIC SCHOOL MUSIC COMMITTEE

BRASS AND WOODWIND SCHOOL INSTRUMENT POLICY



Musical instruments need care and attention. They need to be looked after, cleaned, checked, oiled and greased.

The best way to keep an instrument in good repair is to play them regularly. You develop an understanding of the instrument and know when it needs some care before any issues arise. Also an instrument that isn't used can become a problem. Valves and pads stick, reeds get brittle and corks dry out.

Here are some tips to keep your instrument in good condition and avoid expensive repair bills.

- Put your instrument away in its case when it's not being used. (Although for the keen student sometimes leaving the instrument out for the day, in a safe but handy place, can encourage a quick pick up and play.)
- Clean the moisture out of instruments. Don't leave condensation in the tubing or in the bore. Blow, shake or wipe out after playing, or at the end of the day after lessons.
- Polish them occasionally with a soft cloth only (no chemicals). It keeps the instrument clean and the band will look good.
- Regularly clean the valves on trumpets, mellophones and euphoniums. Wipe with a soft dry cloth and apply the correct valve oil for the instrument. But make sure you do the valves one at a time so they don't get mixed up (they should be numbered if in doubt).
- Check the screws on keys on woodwind instruments to make sure they aren't sticking out. Don't over tighten. Check the key springs are all in place - sometimes they pop out. Also check the pads, make sure they aren't damaged and that the keys and pads neatly meet the holes. (Pads will need to be replaced by a skilled repairer.)
- Every now and then, clean the valves and tuning slides on brass instruments using lukewarm soapy water. Apply grease to the tuning slides and to the corks on clarinets and saxophones.
- Don't leave your instruments on the ground especially paved surfaces. Avoid situations where instruments can be easily dropped. For example unless your instrument is small, don't try and carry everything all at once – music, stands and instruments. Don't carry them too far outside of their cases. Hold them tightly.
- Put caps back on mouthpieces when the instrument is not in use. Reeds aren't that expensive but take time to wear in and sound good. Keep your reeds clean wash and dry them regularly.
- If brass mouthpieces get really stuck, don't try and force them out, bring them to school or take the instrument to a music shop.

- Finally don't leave instruments hanging around in public. Keep an eye on them or they will get stolen.

If your instrument gets damaged or just isn't working, and cleaning and checking doesn't help, contact us. We may be able to help by email, or you may need to bring the instrument to school. If it's a small problem we will try and repair it. If it's a tricky problem we will suggest where to take it for repair and advise on what needs to be done. Some shops and service places in the local area are listed overleaf. Remember the school office stocks reeds valve oil and tube grease.

If you are enjoying music we encourage you to think about getting your own instrument: perhaps a year or so after starting.

When you no longer need a school instrument, please make sure you hand it back working and clean, ready for the next student.

Happy playing

Instrument Coordinators

LOCAL INSTRUMENT SALES AND SERVICING CONTACTS

Sales & servicing

THE MUSIC PLACE – Cnr Young St & Parramatta Rd Annandale Ph: 9550 0100

SAX & WOODWIND – Mallett St Camperdown

JOUELLINE STRINGS (Largo Australia) Melbourne Ph: 03 93978436

FLUTE TREE – For purchase & repair of Flutes and Clarinets Suite1, 11 Moore St
Leichhardt Ph: 9564 1233

I & K Music – Melbourne internet based for Euphoniums Ph: 03 9398 4126

Recommended servicing

THE MUSIC PLACE: Contact Scott 9550 0100

Case repairs – Sydney Luggage Centre 1147 – 1149 Botany Rd Botany Ph: 9669
6381