

Purchasing Guide

If you borrowed a Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone or Bass Guitar from the school, you need to source your own if you wish your child to continue in the Instrumental Music Program for your 2nd year. If you borrowed a Tenor Saxophone from the school, you will need to source your own if you wish your child to continue in the Instrumental Music Program for your 3rd year. This guide can also be used for any woodwind or brass players wishing to purchase an instrument. Below is a list of recommendations on what to look for when purchasing an instrument.

General Considerations:

- In general, you want to look at a middle of the range student model instrument.
- When purchasing any instrument see if the retailer will allow your child and/or a trusted teacher/professional musician to test/play the instrument before purchasing.
- ALWAYS VIEW THE INSTRUMENT BEFORE PURCHASING! While there are cheap instruments available on websites such as Gumtree and e-bay, it is better to avoid these options unless you are able to view/test the instrument prior to purchasing. Always ask for the brand and model number. This will make it easier for your teacher or trusted professional to determine the quality of the instrument.
- When looking over the instrument check for:
 - Dents, cracks or chips
 - Missing key pads or corks (look on the underside of the keys, each joint of a clarinet, the neck of the saxophone)
 - That all keys seal properly and move freely (press all the keys down and see if there are any gaps between the key pad and the tone hole)
 - For brass instruments check that all valves and slides move freely
- The above list is mainly for purchasing second hand instruments through independent sellers, however, you may wish to discuss some of these points with your music retailer when purchasing a new instrument.

If buying second hand, always ask when the instrument was last serviced. If not serviced in the last 12 months it is recommended that it be serviced after purchase to ensure it is in good working order prior to commencing lessons.

Recommended brands:

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| ○ Flute – Yamaha, Trevor James | ○ Trumpet – Yamaha, Bach |
| ○ Clarinet – Yamaha, Buffet (B12) | ○ French Horn – Yamaha, Hans Hoyer |
| ○ Bass Clarinet – Yamaha | ○ Trombone – Yamaha, Bach |
| ○ Alto Saxophone –Yamaha, Trevor James, Jupiter, Yanigasawa | ○ Euphonium – Yamaha, Besson |
| ○ Tenor Saxophone –Yamaha, Jupiter, Yanigasawa | ○ Tuba – Yamaha, Besson |
| ○ Baritone Saxophone –Yamaha, Yanigasawa | ○ Bass Guitar – Yamaha |

Talk to your music retailer about the different instrument models and brands available and seek guidance for finding an instrument to best suit your child. Some stores also run instrument hire schemes or have payment plans.