

CARING FOR YOUR CLARINET

Instruments are to be looked after appropriately by Band Members. The best way to learn about general cleaning and maintenance is to have your tutor demonstrate.

Below are some simple tips to help you.

DUE TO THE COMPLEX AND DELICATE CONSTRUCTION OF INSTRUMENTS, NEVER ATTEMPT ANY ADJUSTMENTS OR REPAIRS ON YOUR OWN.

If there are any problems, please notify the Band Committee and it will be fixed promptly. All school owned instruments are serviced over the summer holidays, the cost of this is covered in your instrument hire fee.

GENERAL:

KEEP IT CLEAN: Don't chew gum, eat, or drink soft drinks just before or while you play. Food particles, sugar and other foreign materials, when blown into an instrument, are difficult to remove and eventually will affect the playing quality. If you do eat before playing, rinse your mouth out thoroughly with water. The same policy applies to the outside of your instrument too.

AFTER PLAYING: wipe finger prints and other marks off the outside of your instrument with a players polishing cloth. It is necessary to remove perspiration as it has a damaging effect on wood, lacquer and metal. Use lukewarm water to clean the mouth piece, do not use water on any other part of the instrument.

- Clarinet players are required to buy Cork Grease. If the joints are not greased regularly then they may be damaged when putting the instrument together or taking it apart. Joints can be expensive to repair or replace, so please ensure that all cork joints are well greased and assembled with care to avoid breakage.

- Assemble the clarinet carefully. When joining the two main sections, place your left hand on the upper section in the playing position with fingers covering the keys. This will automatically raise the key bar that bridges across from the upper to lower section and will allow this key bar to get into position without striking the bar on the lowest joint. If not done in this manner, these bars can become bent and will not operate correctly.
- Adjusting the length of the instrument at the mouthpiece regulates tuning of the clarinet. The further out the mouth piece is, the lower its pitch will be (flatter), the further in it is, the higher its pitch will be (sharper).
- Apply oil sparingly when needed at points where the keys are joined and at binding posts. To do this, dip a toothpick in the oil, place a drop of oil at each joint, flat spring seat and at the roller joints, by touching with the tip of the toothpick. Keep oil off pads as moisture will cause them to swell and prevent proper sealing.
- Remove moisture from clarinets after each playing session with a clean sweep cloth section by section.
- All cleaning equipment you will need is available from Mall Music Brookvale or Mona Vale Music, please purchase a kit and ask your tutor or the band conductor for instructions on use.

Just remember, learning to read music and play an instrument is a challenging and rewarding experience. If your instrument is cared for and maintained, the satisfaction you get will greatly increase.

BAND COMMITTEE