

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:

The flute is probably the most fragile of all the band instruments. It is very delicate having many keys that move up and down covering the the tone holes. These keys are made of soft metal and can easily be bent. The most common problem that occurs with flutes is bent keys. If a key is bent even just slightly it will not cover or seal the hole completely and therefore the flute will leak air. Consequently the flute will play poorly or not at all.

Cleaning (actually its drying). You don't actually clean a flute, you dry it by removing the moisture from the inside. The pads of a flute do not like moisture. Do this drying procedure after every time you play.

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.

CARING FOR YOUR FLUTE

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.

- Assemble the joints slowly, being very careful to join them in a straight line, otherwise the edges can become rounded and destroy the alignment and air seal of the instrument. The same applies when taking it apart. Do not grasp the instrument where the pressure of your hand will damage the key mechanism. Join together with a gentle twisting motion.
- To help prevent flute joints from sticking, wipe joints clean with cloth after playing. Dry and polish each joint with another cloth.
- After playing, remove moisture from the inside using a clean sweep cloth, pull this through the instrument several times.
- All cleaning equipment you will need is available from Mall Music Brookvale or Mona Vale Music, please purchase a kit and ask your tutor for instructions on use.
- It is not recommend that you polish your flute. Never use any silver polish. It is abrasive like sandpaper and will either remove the silver plating on your flute or it will get into your keywork and grind away. Remember it is normal for a silver or a silver plated flute to tarnish.

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