

CARING FOR YOUR WOODWIND INSTRUMENT

Welcome to the WHPS band program! We strive to keep all school owned instruments in excellent working condition through proper care by band members and the services of an experienced instrument repairer.

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.

Instruments are to be looked after appropriately by Band Members. At your first lesson, please ask your tutor how to keep your instrument in good condition!! All equipment that is needed to help maintain the instruments is available for purchase at Mall Music Brookvale or Mona Vale Music.

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.

FLUTES:

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.

CLARINETS:

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. Remove moisture from clarinets after each playing session with a clean sweep cloth section by section.

SAXOPHONES:

Saxophone players are required to buy Cork Grease as well as a neck strap or harness. Insert the neck and position it slowly and carefully so there is no damage done to the octave key mechanism. If this is difficult, apply a small amount of cork grease. Remove moisture from saxophones after each playing session with a clean sweep cloth section by section.

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