

TERRIGAL PIANO STUDIO

Terrigal Piano Studio Teaching Policy 2024

1. Term dates and holidays are listed on the website <https://www.terrighalpianostudio.com>. Any updates are posted here and on the studio Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/terrighalpianostudio/> - (please 'like' and select 'get notifications') - which also has contingency plans during storms, floods, fires, blackouts etc. along with interesting posts that are uploaded every few days e.g. videos from YouTube of an artist or a student performing as inspiration for students or recent research that pertains to our musical journeys.

Students' photos will be taken for the gallery on the studio website or for Facebook posts (e.g. concerts) unless otherwise requested.
2. Lessons may be rescheduled *within the term* where 2 weeks' notice has been given for absences *for school or other holidays*. Extra lessons may be booked during holiday periods if a student wishes.
3. **Fees:** Term Fees are payable *prior to* the first lesson of the term to secure your timeslot and may be made in cash or by electronic transfer. Invoices are sent out 2-3 weeks before the end of each term. A deposit is required with your enrolment. A late payment will be charged a fee of \$5 per day.

Lesson fees at TPS are currently \$88 per hour, \$68 for 45 minutes, \$48 for 30 minutes and \$38 for Pre-Schoolers' 20-minute lessons. "EarlyBird" payments/discounts are offered – please refer to website for details. *NB. The NSW Music Teachers' Association recommends a minimum fee for 2024 of \$102 per hour.* There is also an Annual Resource fee of \$40.

At times, the purchase of books will be required for the student. Please budget for approximately \$100-\$150 per annum depending on the level of study.
4. Thirty-minute lessons are only available for children 7 years and under, and students in year 1 of piano. Students in year 2 or beyond need to take forty-five-minute lessons. This is because the various elements necessary for a well-rounded musical education cannot be covered adequately in a 30 minute lesson. In particular, young children need to be able to work at their own pace, taking their time to process information, without being rushed.

Adults at any level require a minimum of 45 minutes per lesson.

Exam students require a one-hour lesson.

Exemptions will be considered on an individual basis, if requested.
5. Students require an appropriate instrument: a correctly tuned piano in good condition, or a weighted, touch-responsive 88 note digital piano. Acoustic pianos need to be tuned at least once a year. Students also need fingernails to be clipped short in order to maintain a correct hand position and make satisfactory progress.
6. Students need to maintain a regular practice schedule to maximise their progress and potential. Parents need to establish a regular routine and actively enjoy listening to their child play. I may recommend that lessons be stopped until the student or family has more time to commit if this cannot be achieved. I reserve the right to discontinue lessons for any reason, which may include lack of practice, unpaid fees, frequent absences, behavioural issues, and destruction or damage of studio property.

7. Parents of young children are particularly encouraged to attend their child's lessons so they can understand my teaching methods and follow up on the lesson at home in a similar manner. Regular positive reinforcement helps build the student's self-esteem, which supports them becoming well-rounded, confident, happy musicians.

Questions and concerns are always welcome.

8. Visitors and siblings are welcome to sit in on lessons if they can sit quietly so as not to distract the student from their lesson.

9. All Mobile phones must be turned to silent during piano lessons.

10. I operate a COVID-19 safe environment so any student who is sick should not attend (refer to "non-attendance" please). Any student or person sitting in on the lesson with them who has been in a COVID-19 Hotspot or in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks need to reschedule their lesson.

Students and those accompanying them are required to remove and leave their shoes outside before entering the studio but should wear clean socks/tights/stockings in the studio, or otherwise have clean feet.

11. Students are encouraged to perform at our annual concert which forms an integral part of their musical learning experience. Awards are presented and if not performing attendance by the student in the audience is strongly recommended. The Annual Recital date is usually advised prior to Term 4.

12. NON-ATTENDANCE

Teacher: If for any reason I must cancel a lesson, every effort will be made to provide advance notice. I will try to reschedule all lessons cancelled by myself, however if this is not possible a credit for any lesson fee charged will be carried over into the following term.

Student: If a student chooses not to attend a lesson, or there is a clash with something else, if sufficient notice is given and there is a timeslot available, the missed lesson may be rescheduled within the current term, at my discretion. Alternatively, a student may send me a video recording and I will use the lesson time to send feedback. If a student is sick, a Zoom lesson may be considered, given sufficient notice. Otherwise, the lesson will be forfeited, and payment will not be refunded or credited to the following term.

13. TERMINATION OF LESSONS

Please give 4 weeks' notice if you plan to terminate your lessons – this facilitates a more comfortable sense of closure for both the student and myself. If a student wishes to terminate before the end of the term any remaining lessons will be forfeited.

By signing the enrolment form, you agree that you have read and agree to the terms and conditions as stated herein.

