

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the NSW Government's plans for Chatswood Public School, Chatswood High School and Chatswood Intensive English Centre?

The NSW Government is investing in public education in Chatswood, with the redevelopment, relocation and expansion of Chatswood Public School, Chatswood High School and Chatswood Intensive English Centre to create the Chatswood Education Precinct.

The proposal is to develop the Chatswood Education Precinct through new building and refurbishment works at both schools to consolidate K-6 and 7-9 at the existing High School site (Centennial Avenue Site) and adaptive re-use of the Public School site (Pacific Highway Site) as a Senior Campus for years 10 to 12.

The development will provide an integrated education precinct with new classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, open space, sports fields and associated facilities to cater for approximately 1,200 primary school students and 2000 secondary school students. The new landmark education precinct for the Chatswood community will provide new and refurbished future focussed learning and teaching facilities to meet the needs of current students and to accommodate future growth of the student population in the area.

Q: What are future-focused learning and teaching facilities?

Future-focused learning prepares students across all curriculum areas and learning stages with skills and capabilities to thrive in a rapidly changing and interconnected world. It connects students and engages their sense of curiosity.

Future-focused teachers know and understand the needs and talents of their students. They are flexible and select from a range of effective teaching strategies.

Future-focused learning environments inspire students to be leaders of their own learning. Students collaborate and use critical and creative thinking to solve complex problems and become mindful global citizens.

Q: Why is the NSW Government redeveloping Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School?

The development of the Chatswood Education Precinct reflects the need for additional public education infrastructure within the local area. Chatswood and surrounding areas are experiencing significant residential growth, resulting in a higher concentration of new student enrolments, and this is projected to continue.

With a growing reputation for educational excellence, including opportunity classes at the Public School and a selective stream at the High School, both schools have seen significant enrolment growth with resulting pressure on the available space and facilities at each school.

The local community has played a key role in advancing this project. Enrolment demand, outdoor play space and student wellbeing have been key drivers.

Q: Will the development of Chatswood Education Precinct result in changes to the boundaries of the catchment areas for the schools?

The Department of Education monitors population and development trends so that it can plan to meet enrolment needs in schools across NSW. To do so the department regularly consults with relevant departments and agencies such as the Department of Planning and Environment, local councils and School Operations and Performance.

Q: What are the plans for the Chatswood Intensive English Centre?

School Infrastructure NSW is considering options to relocate the Chatswood Intensive English Centre to purpose built facilities. Consultation on the relocation will occur late 2018.

Q: What will happen to the Opportunity Class program and Selective stream?

The Chatswood Education Precinct will continue to offer Opportunity Class streams in the public school and a selective stream in the high school in accordance with the Department of Education's policies on Gifted and Talented Children including Accelerated progression.

Q: When will work start and finish?

Subject to planning approvals, construction of the new facilities is due to start in mid-2019 and is expected to be finished by Day 1, Term 1, 2024.

FAQ continued

Q: What is the timeline for the redevelopment?

Stage 1: Construction of a primary school (years K–6) on the existing high school site.

Expected mid 2019 – Expected completion Early 2021

Stage 2: Construction of a senior campus (years 10–12) on the existing primary school site.

Expected Completion Early 2022

Stage 3: Construction of new high school facilities (years 7–9) on the balance of the existing high school site. **Expected completion Early 2024**

Q: If construction of the new facilities is to occur on the existing school sites, how disruptive will this be on normal school operations and what will the impact be on student learning?

School Infrastructure NSW is working closely with the principals and staff to reduce disruption to students and learning as much as possible. To minimise the disruption to staff and students, the project will be delivered through a staged approach.

Q: Do I get a say in what happens?

Yes! Your feedback is really important to us. We are committed to working together with our school communities and stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities. We will work with school communities to ensure we've considered what's important to you.

Q: What about the heritage buildings on the sites?

A Heritage Impact Statement and assessment will be undertaken, and heritage buildings will be carefully and respectfully maintained.

Q: How can I find out what is happening as the project progresses?

We have lots of ideas for how to keep you up to date – social media, community newsletters, school newsletters, website updates.

In a survey of the school communities in late 2017 we asked respondents how they would prefer to receive information about the project. If you didn't participate, please tell us how you would like to be informed.

More information?

Visit schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au to ask questions or make comments at: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or call 1300 482 651