

# Chatswood Education Precinct

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the NSW Government's plans for Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School?**

The NSW Government is investing in public education in Chatswood, with the redevelopment, expansion and relocation 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 years 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 10-12.

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 2,000 secondary school students. The new landmark education precinct for the Chatswood community will provide new and refurbished innovative learning and teaching facilities to meet the needs of current and future students.

### **Why is the High School split across two campuses?**

The high school campus has been split into years 7-9 on Centennial Avenue site and years 10-12 on Pacific Highway site. This is due to the overall master plan for Centennial Avenue site providing Kindergarten to year 9 safer and easier access to open play space without travelling across Centennial Avenue. From a masterplan organisational viewpoint, years 7-9 has been located closest to the Senior School campus promoting a sense of connection as well as a logical progression across the School as the students get older. The majority of the co-located and shared facilities such as gym/hall, libraries, admin and staff areas will be located on the K-9 Centennial Avenue site.

### **What are the plans for the Chatswood Intensive English Centre?**

In recent months, the Department has been engaging with the IEC school leadership and a staff representative to explore relocation options for the IEC.

The IEC will relocate to St Ives High School at the end of this year.

The decision to relocate the IEC was based on the strong support for it to be co-located with a High School in the Northern Sydney area and ensure a long-term solution to meet the current and future needs of students who attend IECs.

### **What are the benefits of the project for the Chatswood school community?**

The new facilities proposed for the Chatswood Education Precinct will deliver more than 150 new and refurbished innovative learning and teaching spaces; almost three times the play space currently allocated to primary school students; specialist teaching facilities such as science, art and music rooms; dedicated performing arts spaces; a new gymnasium and recreational areas for high school students; new libraries; and an indoor sports facility.

### **What is the NSW Government's plan to accommodate high primary school enrolment projections in the area?**

The NSW Government is aware of enrolment pressure at Chatswood Public School, indicating additional primary school capacity may be required in the area. As a result, the NSW Department of Education is in the very early stages of investigating potential site options. No decisions have been made and the community will be kept informed as planning progresses.

### **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 reputation for educational excellence, including opportunity classes at the Public School and an academically 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.

# NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

## **Will the development of the 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 in order to make informed decisions about school catchment areas.

## **What are innovative learning spaces?**

Innovative learning prepares students across all curriculum areas and learning stages with skills and capabilities to thrive in a rapidly changing and interconnected world. It engages students based on their ability, interests and learning preferences and provides flexible, technology-rich teaching spaces for one-to-one, small groups and whole of class activities. Innovative learning spaces encourage collaborative learning between students and teachers.

## **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 an academically selective stream in the high school in accordance with the Department of Education's policies on Gifted and Talented Children including accelerated progression.

## **How will students and teachers at the high school move between the two campuses safely?**

One of the Precinct's guiding principles is to ensure clear, simple, and safe connections between campuses. Through the considered design of the masterplan, the need to travel between campuses has been minimised.

## **How will the current high school site layout be used for the year that K-12 will all be on the one site?**

The project team is working through available pathways and options to carefully consider a staged delivery approach. There will be increased temporary facilities and reduced open play space during the staged delivery with student and staff safety and continuity of learning and teaching also being carefully considered. Consultation during the planning stage has commenced with Council, Roads and Maritime Services and Transport for NSW to also assist in developing clear traffic management plans for both sites.

## **When will work start and finish?**

Subject to planning approvals, early enabling works of the new facilities is due to start in late 2019 and project completion is expected by early 2024.

## **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. Construction planning is underway and further details about the staged delivery will be presented to the school community later this year.

## **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.

## **How can I find out what is happening as the project progresses?**

School infrastructure NSW is committed to keeping the school community and near neighbours informed about the project through school newsletters, project updates, information sessions and web updates.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to call the School Infrastructure NSW hotline or through email below.

### **For more information contact:**

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