

Newcastle East Public School

Frequently Asked Questions (Playground upgrade)

What approvals were required for the playground upgrade?

Detailed planning and design of the playground upgrade began earlier this year. The playground upgrade is being delivered under a Review of Environmental Factors (REF), under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017.

How will construction impacts be managed?

The safety and wellbeing of the community is our priority and we will manage and control the construction impacts to the school and wider community by:

- separating the site from the school grounds with security fences
- contractors entering the site via dedicated access points and preventing access to other school areas
- scheduling deliveries and vehicle movements to minimise impacts to kiss and drop peak times
- notifying the school community and surrounding neighbours before work starts
- completing potentially disruptive tasks outside of school hours.

How will contaminated soils be managed?

All works will be carried out in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Daily air monitoring and site inspections will be undertaken by independent occupational hygienists.

No works causing disturbance to contaminated material will be carried out during school hours.

What environmental controls will you have in place during the work?

Plant and equipment will travel to the playground site from the site compound (staff car park) at any time, however, it will not be removed from the playground site during school hours.

Plant and equipment will be washed down in the site compound area in between uses, as will the pathway between the site compound and the playground site.

Within the playground site, the plant and equipment will be moved as little as possible during school hours. Continual air monitoring will be in place during the works.

Additional environmental controls in place will include sediment traps (in case of rain), water mist dust suppression, designated wash down areas and clearly delineated works areas.

What monitoring will be in place during the works?

An independent hygienist will be on site during any remediation activities including excavation of material. The hygienist will perform daily airborne fibre monitoring and inspections of the work.

It is also the role of the independent hygienist to provide clearance certification following excavation and capping of the known contaminated area, in accordance with the Code of Practice.

Will there be any impacts on students and neighbours?

Due to the nature of our work, there may be increased noise and dust from machinery and other activities. We will ensure that work is completed safely and efficiently, and disruptions are minimised.

How has the design considered the heritage significance of Newcastle East Public School?

The new playground design has been planned to complement the heritage of the school. The existing sandstone retaining walls within the school grounds will be relocated and reused.

The new retaining walls have been set back from the existing heritage wall along Kitchener Parade and will have no loading impact to the existing walls.

The removal of trees and improvements to the stormwater system will also assist with protection of the heritage retaining wall.

Where will the site compound be located?

The staff car park will continue to be used as the site compound for the duration of work.

How will traffic be managed?

Construction traffic will be managed according to the traffic management plan with minimal disruption to the local community.

Will a face to face community meeting be held before work starts?

In March 2020, the NSW Government introduced proactive measures, including social distancing, to limit the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on schools and communities. Social distancing resulted in changes to the way we engage with the community. Instead of face-to-face discussions we will deliver notifications to your letterbox or via the Skoolbag app.

Community members are invited to discuss the work over the phone and email. Additional information boards about the playground work will also be placed on the fencing around the school.

The health, safety, and well-being of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Please be assured that the removal of this material will not pose a risk to the local community. We will continue to provide further information as this work progresses.

What are the construction hours?

In line with the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development – Construction Work Days) Order 2020*, School Infrastructure NSW construction sites can now operate on weekends and public holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is to allow workers to maintain social distancing while on construction sites by distributing building work across the entire week.

Works will take place from 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday and from 8:00am to 5:00pm Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information contact:

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