



An example of facilities that we are building for students across NSW

Orange Grove Public School upgrade

Information pack | August 2023

Orange Grove Public School is being upgraded and will include additional fit-for-purpose classrooms and upgraded core facilities to meet enrolment growth. The project will deliver:



New flexible classrooms



New administration and staff rooms



New multipurpose hall



New amenities



Landscaping

Masterplan update

Following consultation activities held in 2022, a thorough review of the proposed masterplan was conducted. The review included further consideration of statutory planning requirements, examination and confirmation of heritage components, project budget, Education Facilities Standards Guidelines (EFSG), sustainability, earlier masterplans, Inner West Council control plans and expert arborist advice on tree protection.



***Artist impression of proposed Orange Grove Public School upgrade.**

The proposed plan

The upgrade of Orange Grove Public School is being designed to accommodate 736 students. The new facilities being planned will provide the students of Orange Grove Public School with sufficient spaces to learn and play for years to come.

Open spaces

Open spaces were an important element highlighted during community consultation. The proposed masterplan aims to work with the existing buildings to maximise the footprint of the open spaces and take into consideration the students and community use of these. The current usable open green spaces at Orange Grove Public School is 3850sq metres. Once the proposed upgrade is completed and demountable buildings are removed, there is expected to be 3650sq metres.

In addition, the new proposed hall and COLA will provide an added 1540sq metres of space, which may be used for games or other activities.

The proposed plan (cont.)

The new school hall

The new school hall is proposed for the south west side of the site and will have an attached Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) that will flow into the existing grass area. The proposed location of the new hall is best-suited for indoor /outdoor activities such as school presentations, games, art exhibitions, etc. The building will also include space to hold specialised learning, a new canteen and amenities.

Building J

The new building J is proposed to be located on the site of the existing library and is expected to include 8 new classrooms. The building footprint will be slightly bigger than the existing library which means that the current games court in front of the library will be shifted north and slightly reduced in width. The western side of the building will face the grass area and the existing demountable building will be removed.

Building B

Building B is proposed to be repurposed to become the new school library, this will also include adding toilet amenities to the building.

Building L

The new building L is the proposed administration block, with staff rooms, general administration office and staff courtyard. The location of the building will provide visitor access from school gate 2, off Perry Street, which will become the main entrance to the school.

Building L will be built in the location of the north wing of building D, which was lost to a fire in 1939.

Building D

The oldest building on site, building D will receive internal upgrades to reinstate, more or less, the configuration from 1927. The building will host 7 classrooms, new amenities and a verandah surrounding the building and include 2 improved Practical Activities Areas (PAA) where learning activities such as painting can take place.

Building A

The ground floor of the administration building and school hall is proposed to be repurposed, to add 4 additional general learning spaces, designed with flexibility in mind to cater for a range of learning activities.

Restoring green spaces

Part of the project scope includes restoring the areas where the demountable buildings currently sit. The entire north-east area will be landscaped. Consultation about the best way to utilise this space will take place with the school staff and students as part of the landscaping plan. The options could include restoring the original sustainable gardens or creating separate play spaces for different year groups.

The area where the demountable buildings are located on the western side of the school, closest to Perry Street, will be restored and become an addition to the existing grass area.

Heritage

Connecting with the past

One of the considerations for the revised Orange Grove Public School masterplan is the school's heritage. Independent heritage advice was sought to review the initial considerations of the heritage significance of the school. The advice confirmed important elements of heritage significance at the school and has informed the planning approach as we work to deliver this important project.

The school's origins stem back to the 1800's, when the school was known as Leichardt West.

In the 1920's adjoining land was acquired and the school became known as Orange Grove Public School. In 1939 a fire destroyed the north wing of the existing building D which was never restored.

Throughout the rest of the century, additions to existing buildings occurred. Please see the latest factsheet for more information about the school's heritage.



1883



1903



1921



West Leichhardt Superior Public School Instruction—"How to Bud Broad Beans."

Photo Reference (TROVE) Australian Town & Country Journal 30 Oct 1912 Public school children and their gardens How to bud broadbeans.

In the early 1900's the school established a 'healthy farm and garden' where students were shown the value of learning science by combining practical application and technical knowledge. The gardens were used for cultivation of food as well as flowers all year round.



Community access, including the markets, is important to the school and has been considered as part of our planning for the upgrade. The Orange Grove Organic Markets are a lively and thriving part of the local community and we will work with market organisers as we continue to develop plans for the upgrade, including how to minimise impacts to operations during construction and any benefits the upgrades may provide to the markets such as in amenities and landscaping.

The proposed new multipurpose hall could provide the community with a place for school performances and community sports.

Out of hours school use and amenities



Frequently asked questions

Why is the school being upgraded

Since 2008, the enrolments at Orange Grove Public School have almost doubled as the local community has grown. Temporary demountable buildings have been used to support student learning and external outdoor spaces have been used for large student gatherings. This upgrade project will provide additional capacity and modern facilities

What will be the impact to the markets?

Consultation with stakeholders has begun, including meeting with the operator of the Orange Grove Organic Markets. We have received early feedback from market operators which we are working to incorporate into the planning of the upgrade. Consultation with the market operators will be ongoing to ensure minimal impact to the market operations during and after construction.

What will the statutory planning process for the project be?

We are assessing the most appropriate statutory planning pathway for the Orange Grove Public School upgrade. Early assessments and feedback from Inner West Council have identified that pursuing multiple planning pathways would be the preferred approach. Once the masterplan is finalised, we will confirm the most appropriate statutory development pathway. We will provide an update to the school and the broader community once a preferred process is identified and continue with consultation regardless of the planning pathways pursued.

What works are happening at the school?

School Infrastructure NSW regularly inspects and maintains school infrastructure as part of a comprehensive and ongoing program to keep school assets in optimal condition and ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school community across more than 2,200 NSW schools.

Over the last few months, roof maintenance work has taken place across the school. These works are unrelated to the proposed upgrade for Orange Grove Public School and are part of the Department's regular school maintenance program.

Will many trees be removed as part of this new masterplan?

We are expecting to remove some trees on the school site. We recognise the important role that trees play on the school site and we will preserve as many as possible as part of the project.

We will also be planting new trees as part of the extensive landscaping phase of the project. An independent arborist has provided early advice during the planning process in relation to potential impacts to trees and will continue to guide the project as it moves through design stages.

We will share more information with the community once we have an understanding about the final number and location of trees that may need to be removed.

Will water drainage issues at the school be part of the scope of works?

Yes, addressing the site's drainage is included in the scope of the project. More information about how and when this will take place will be shared once a design is finalised and a building contractor is on board.

Will the community have access to use the new school hall for events?

The proposed new multipurpose hall can be opened up to the community for school performances, community sports or gatherings. Planning for its usage will be conducted in consultation with the school leadership team and the department's 'Share our Space' Program.

Frequently asked questions (cont.)

Will enrolment area change after the upgrade?

As communities constantly grow and change the NSW Department of Education reviews intake areas to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the local community.

Intake area boundaries are updated regularly to ensure every child in NSW has a well-resourced local public school to attend. Adjustments are used to balance enrolment numbers between local schools.

If changes to school catchment boundaries / enrolment areas are needed, the Department of Education would work closely with school staff and communities to inform them and help them plan for any boundary realignments.

When will construction begin and finish?

We are seeking feedback from the community on the updated version of the proposed masterplan before we proceed with design, statutory planning and construction. Once we are able to proceed with a masterplan, a delivery program will be developed, including further design development, planning approvals and construction. At this point we will be able to provide the community with estimated start and completion dates.

Will the shade structure works go ahead?

We understand the importance of the shade structure which was funded by the P&C and scheduled to be built. We will be assessing how and where the new shade structure will be able to fit with the proposed upgrade as we continue the planning process and will provide the P&C and community more information when this becomes available.

Stay informed



Website

Stay up to date by visiting the School Infrastructure NSW website
schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing
schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Phone

Contact us between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**



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