

Schofields Public School

Project update

February 2019

Over the last few weeks you will have noticed improvements being made to the temporary school.

This project update provides information about some of those improvements and responds to issues raised by parents and staff.

The health, safety and well-being of students, staff and our neighbours remains our highest priority.

The project team is committed to working with the school community and neighbours to minimise any impacts caused by the redevelopment process. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your patience while we deliver this important work.

ISSUE	RESPONSE
Safety of the temporary school site	School Infrastructure NSW engaged Work Health and Safety consultants to undertake a thorough inspection of the school site on 31 January 2019. The WHS consultants assessed the site and found the school safe for students, staff and visitors.
New pedestrian crossing in Junction Road	The pedestrian crossing and accompanying signage were installed to enable a safe crossing to the opposite side of the road during drop-off/pick-up times. We have also engaged traffic managers to help students safely use the crossing.
Does pine pose a hazard for young children?	No. The pine is used for stringers on the stairs and the posts for the covered walkway. It is commonly used outdoors for pergolas and it is suitable for high contact use.
Do posts in walkways pose a collision hazard?	The assessment of the Work Health and Safety consultant is that the posts do not pose a hazard.
Safety edging on stairs has a sharp edge. Could it be an injury hazard in the event of a fall?	The safety edging is provided in compliance with Australian standards to prevent falls. The School has been inspected by the building certifier and WHS consultants and has been declared safe. It has also received a certificate for building occupancy.
The door to the library impedes the walkway when it is open.	This is being addressed by altering the door so that it opens 180 degrees. This was completed on Monday 25 February.
Openings under stairs	Openings under stairs have been filled to remove any concerns about safety.
Lack of seating for students in the playground	New benches will be installed to increase the amount of seating in the playground for students.
Is there a toilet for visitors?	There isn't a toilet specifically for visitors. Visitors can use the disabled toilet.

ISSUE	RESPONSE
What is the school Emergency Management Plan?	The School has an Evacuation Plan. School Infrastructure NSW is working with the School and the contractor (ADCO) to finalise Emergency Management procedures for the construction site and the temporary school as a matter of priority.
When will the gate be completed to enable access to the park?	A new gate to provide access from the school to the oval has been installed. An asphalt pathway between the Council oval and the school has already been built.
Concerns about the asphalt and the heat	The extent of the asphalt surface has been kept to a minimum and there is now additional turf. However, asphalt and concrete areas are standard in schools across the state.
What is the school policy regarding the heat? When are students kept inside? Are students able to go to the Hall or the Library if they are feeling hot?	All rooms are air conditioned. Additionally the Library is open during recess and lunch but has limited room. When the temperature is over 35 degrees, all students are kept inside in their air-conditioned classrooms.
Do students have access to cold water?	Cold water is available from taps/ bubblers. On hot days the taps/bubblers may need to run for a while before they will run cold.
What is the status of the removal of asbestos from the old school? Why wasn't it done during the school holidays?	The removal of asbestos from the old school has been completed. The removal was undertaken strictly in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and Safe Work NSW requirements, and did not pose a risk to students, staff or the local community. In order to ensure the safety of the local community, prior approval is required to remove asbestos from school buildings and seven days' notice needs to be given to near neighbours before removal can begin. The timing of this approval and notification meant that the removal could not begin until 24 January.
Is there a drainage problem? Will the oval flood given the slope of the building site and the lack of drainage?	No. The middle field (where the demountables are) drains into the existing drainage line. To assist absorption of stormwater, hard surfaces have not been extended under the demountables, and the demountables have been deliberately set out so that the natural over-ground flow is maintained from north-west to south-east.

School Infrastructure NSW will continue to work closely with the school community sharing regular updates as the project progresses. Planning approval for the upgrade to Schofields Public School is expected early this year. We look forward to welcoming you to your new school in 2020.

For more information contact:

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