

Wilkins Public School

Information pack

November 2019



An example of learning spaces we are delivering across NSW

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$6.7 billion over the next four years to deliver 190 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. In addition, a record \$1.3 billion is being spent on school maintenance over five years. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

Project overview

Works are planned for a new purpose-built preschool facility in the grounds of Wilkins Public School, and to upgrade the learning spaces that are in use by the current provider, Globe Wilkins preschool, for school use. The licence for the current provider has been extended so the preschool can continue to operate during construction.

Once constructed, a competitive tender process will be undertaken to appoint a service provider for the new preschool.

Progress summary

We've completed early investigations for the new preschool site. A site has been identified for the 50 place preschool, following consultation with, and endorsement from, the school leadership, and in line with budget and site constraints. The advantages of the selected site include:

- Generation of a large area of green space for use by the school
- Provision of space for new multi-purpose sports courts for the school that will be included in the project scope
- Maintains privacy for the preschool from nearby residents
- Existing entrances and access for emergency services can be retained.

Next steps

The next steps of the project involve the development of concept designs for the new facility, following a tender process for a design architect. We anticipate these concept designs will be ready for sharing with the wider community in Term 1, 2020.

Frequently asked questions

Why are you building a new preschool?

Globe Wilkins preschool has been co-located at Wilkins Public School for the past 20 years. A new, purpose-built preschool is being constructed in the grounds of the school as the school is experiencing enrolment growth and requires the four classrooms that the preschool currently occupies.

What happens next?

The chosen site for the new preschool and a project masterplan are being shared with the broader school and preschool communities. The next step involves a tender process for the appointment of a design architect and development of concept designs. We anticipate the concept designs will be ready to share with the wider community in Term 1, 2020.

How long will the new preschool take to build?

It will take about two years to finalise all designs, plans and approvals and build the new preschool.

Where are you building the new preschool?

After consultation with the school and school parent representatives, a site towards the western side of the school grounds has been selected. Plans are progressing for a 50 place preschool, in line with budget and site constraints. The advantages and associated benefits of the selected site are:

- A new large area of green space for use by the school
- New multi-purpose sports courts for school students that will be included in the project scope
- The site maintains privacy for the preschool from nearby residents
- Existing entrances and access for emergency services can be retained.

What happens to the current preschool during construction?

The Globe Wilkins preschool licence has been extended for two years. They will continue to operate as is until the successful tenderer can occupy the new facility.

Who will operate the new preschool?

At the present time, the preschool is managed by Inner West Council, operating as Globe Wilkins Preschool. The preschool uses four of the Wilkins Public School classrooms that are leased to the Council. The licence to Council has been extended until such time as the new preschool is complete. At completion of construction, a competitive open tender process will take place to appoint an operator for the new preschool.

Why can't Globe Wilkins continue as the operator?

Operation of the preschool is a commercial contract and the Department of Education has an imperative to ensure contracts for operation of its assets are current, transparent and competitive. Taking the contract for operation of the preschool to open tender does not prevent the current operator from participating in the tender process.

The current preschool has some very specific benefits for its children, will that continue?

We greatly admire that the preschool is widely recognised for its commitment to diversity, culture and inclusivity through its strong commitment to children with a disability (21% of children enrolled experience a significant disability) and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (approximately 13%). The Department is committed to ensuring these attributes and benefits can continue and grow in the new preschool.

Why does Wilkins Public School need the four classrooms?

Wilkins Public School services the suburbs of Petersham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill and currently has approximately 620 students. Enrolments are anticipated to increase in 2020 due to the construction of a significant number of high-density unit complexes within the catchment area. Construction of the new purpose-built preschool will allow for the four Wilkins Public School classrooms the preschool currently occupies, to be refurbished and refitted to align with the school's growing K-6 educational needs and the forecast increase in enrolment.

What about Out of School Hours care services at the school?

Globe Wilkins also provides Out of School Hours (OOSH) care for Wilkins Public School students, along with another third party provider – TASK.

As with the preschool, operation of the OOSH is a commercial contract and this contract will also be taken to open tender when construction of the new preschool is complete.



Draft masterplan

Stay informed



Information sessions

We will hold more community drop-in information sessions as we progress through this project.



Email

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



Website

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



Phone

Contact us between 9:00am – 5:00pm, Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**