

# Maclean High School

## Frequently Asked Questions | 6 August 2024

### Keeping schools safe and secure

#### Why are boundary fences being installed in NSW public schools?

Boundary fencing is designed with the school community in mind, tailored to the school's specific needs. Schools with boundary fencing report a significant reduction in the number of break-and-enter, trespass and vandalism incidents. Boundary fencing is an effective barrier to intruders, both during school operating hours and after-hours.

#### What is the "Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901 (ILP Act)?"

The ILP Act entitles the NSW Department of Education to fence off school property by installing fences and securing gates. This helps us to ensure the safety of the school by preventing unauthorised access.

#### Are there any other security systems used in schools?

Although boundary fencing is effective, it should be part of an overall security plan. This might include electronic surveillance such as alarms and CCTV, along with other risk mitigation strategies that suit the needs of individual schools. CCTV systems are installed at Maclean High School.

#### What does a boundary fence look like?

Generally, boundary fencing is 2.1 metres high, deters and prevents climbing and is designed to provide casual surveillance opportunities. Maclean High School is receiving a 2.1m black spear top diplomat fence.



**What happens during the school day for entering and exiting the school grounds?**

Boundary fencing does not prevent parents, carers and community members from visiting our schools. Visitors are not locked out and will be able to access the school through the Front Office as normal. Sign in and sign out procedures will remain in place for students, supported by an electronic gate system. Buses and emergency services will also still be able to access school grounds.

**Don't boundary fences make schools look like 'prisons'?**

Despite the overwhelming evidence that boundary fencing is effective in its purpose, concerns are still raised about their aesthetic appearance. Some such concerns are that fencing makes learning institutions look and feel like prisons or they undermine the 'open and friendly' nature of communities.

While schools rely heavily on the community and passers-by to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, it's a case of weighing up the pros and cons and doing whatever is necessary to keep students, staff and the NSW Department of Education's assets safe by preventing loss, damage and interruption to learning. Every effort is made to blend the boundary fence into the existing school environment, including maintaining existing gardens and trees where possible.

**Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

You can call us on 1300 482 651 Monday to Friday during business hours or email us at [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au) with any questions or feedback.