

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

KENSINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are upgrading and modernising Kensington Primary School.

This FAQ document has been created to help answer some important project questions following the community information session on 12 October 2022.

ABOUT

HOW MUCH WILL THE PROJECT COST?

The school received \$7.365 million to plan and bring its upgrade to life. It is part of the Victorian Government's \$12.8 billion investment to build 100 new schools and upgrade more than 1,850 existing ones.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT SCOPE?

The project will modernise part of heritage Block A by upgrading general purpose classrooms for students and deliver a new entry, reception and administration area for staff. A new passenger lift will be installed to service the southern end of Block A and provide access to some of the upper-level classrooms.

The project will also build a new student toilet block, a covered walkway, and a new outdoor gathering space to bring the community together. These facilities will provide contemporary and more innovative spaces for students to learn, play and grow in.

KENSINGTON MASTERPLAN


WHAT DOES THE MASTERPLANNING PROCESS INVOLVE AND HOW ARE FUTURE STAGES FUNDED?

When a school receives capital works funding for the first time, they work closely with the VSBA, architect and other relevant stakeholders to create a masterplan. A masterplan lays out the future infrastructure needs of the school. It separates it into individual stages depending on their most pressing needs. Each stage is then subject to possible future funding as it becomes available.

Funding for school upgrade projects is provided through the State Budget, which is delivered each year. Future stages of the school's masterplan will be subject to receiving funding through the budget.

CAN MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE MASTERPLAN BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW AN UNDERSTANDING OF DECISION MAKING AND PLACEMENT OF FUTURE SCHOOL FACILITIES?

Each masterplan is developed to provide facilities to meet the educational needs of the projected number of students that are anticipated to be enrolled at the school. The type, quantity and size of facilities are determined by the approved number of students in accordance with the Department of Education and Training's policies.



As each school is unique, the VSBA, architects and other stakeholders liaise closely with the school leadership team to develop a masterplan that will accommodate the needs and particular teaching and learning programs delivered by the school. This iterative process occurs over several months with multiple options proposed, interrogated, ruled in or out before a consensus is agreed on the way forward.

The masterplan for Kensington Primary School has identified works to be carried out over four separate stages to ultimately deliver:

- upgrades to the Block A heritage building, to address the condition of the building, and upgrading classrooms and staff areas (part of the current project)
- a new student toilet block and demolish the old student toilets (part of the current project)
- upgrades to Block B classrooms and Library spaces (subject to future funding)
- passenger lifts to Block A and the Block B to provide better disability access to the upper level of both buildings (Block A lift is part of the current project)
- provision of two double storey relocatable buildings along the far side of the outdoor play area, providing 8 additional classrooms (subject to future funding)
- demolition of the BER building and construction of a new community hub building in the same location, providing a gymnasium, music rooms and canteen and toilets (subject to future funding)
- and landscaping works as part of each project stage

There are limited opportunities for placement of new buildings on the Kensington Primary School site. As preserving and enhancing the outdoor play space is a priority of the school community, we will demolish and construct fit-for-purpose facilities in the same location, ensuring the best use of the space available.

The aim of each masterplan is to provide a roadmap for future development that considers and optimises the entire school site and develops a plan for any future development.

HOW DOES THE MASTERPLAN CONNECT THE STUDENTS TO NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS? EG NATURAL LIGHT, TREES, OPEN SPACE, OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS, VEGETABLE GARDENS.

The masterplan for Kensington Primary School has been developed to maximise the outdoor play space and encourage student engagement with the outdoors. If future stages of the masterplan are funded and delivered, works will include landscaping around each building to enhance this connection with the outdoors. Stage 1 of the masterplan that we are currently delivering includes landscaping to the rear of the heritage Block A building to provide outdoor learning areas and gathering spaces for students and the community.

IS THE CURRENT PREP BUILDING BEING REMOVED?

The only building being removed as part of the Stage 1 works is the student toilet block and kitchen which will be replaced. We understand that prep students are currently located in the double-storey relocatable building on McCracken Street. Rather than being removed, as part of Stage 3 of the masterplan, this building will be relocated to the rear of the school site together with another double storey relocatable building. Landscaping works will then be completed to the area currently occupied by the prep building. This will open the school site along McCracken Street and create a welcoming arrival for visitors at the school.

WILL THE EXISTING TWO STOREY RELOCATABLES BE REMOVED?

During Stage 3 of the masterplan, the existing two storey relocatable building will be relocated to the rear of the school site. It will not be removed from the school land.

IS STAGE 4 OF THE PROJECT A NEW BUILD? WILL THE EXISTING HALL BE DEMOLISHED?

If funded, Stage 4 of the masterplan will demolish the existing BER building (including the existing hall) and construct a new Community Hub building to accommodate a gym, music rooms, canteen, and toilets. There will also be some landscaping and external works around this new building.

IS A GYMNASIUM INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS UPGRADE?

The current upgrade, which is Stage 1 of the school's masterplan, will focus on upgrades to Kensington Primary School's Block A building. This does not include scope or funding for a gymnasium. A gymnasium is included in the school's masterplan, which may be constructed subject to future government State Budget funding.

WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL UPGRADE LOOK LIKE?

ARE THE CLASSROOMS OPEN PLAN? IF SO, HOW WILL SOUND BE MANAGED?

Modern, adaptable learning spaces will be built as part of the school upgrade. Best-practice acoustic engineering will provide optimal teaching environments.

Due to the heritage nature of the spaces within Block A we are not able to provide full open plan classrooms. The upgraded classrooms will be larger than they currently are with adjacent withdrawal/breakout spaces in line with modern teaching and learning facilities.

WILL THE PROJECT INCLUDE GENDER NEUTRAL TOILETS? WILL THIS INCLUDE A URINAL FOR THE BOYS TOILETS?

The Department is designing and implementing holistic school designs to ensure equal access for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalised.

All gender toilets are included as part of this upgrade and are designed to protect the privacy and safety of all students. The toilets are sealed, individual rooms with separate shared hand basins to meet the needs of each individual student. The new student toilet block has been designed to provide maximum flexibility to the school, provide increased visibility for supervision and enhance student safety.

There will be two banks of toilets (male to one side and female to the other side), and individual toilet cubicles can be nominated as gender neutral toilets by simply changing the sign on each toilet door. This means that the school can determine the number of nominated boys, girls, and gender-neutral toilets and easily change this at any time.

There will not be a urinal installed in the new toilet block, only individual toilets.

HOW WILL THE HERITAGE BUILDING BE PRESERVED?

As part of preserving the heritage building, three trees need to be removed which are currently impacting the building. Three trees located to the rear of Block A will need to be removed as they are currently causing structural damage to the heritage building.

Block A has a local government Heritage Overlay (not a full Heritage Victoria listing) and a Heritage Architect has been engaged to provide advice on the conservation of heritage features and upgrade works at Kensington PS.


The upgrade works will refurbish internal spaces and retain the beautiful heritage features such as the building façade, windows, internal stair handrails and provide a new access ramp and entry to the new reception foyer in keeping with the style of the building.

HOW WILL THE NEW DESIGN ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL STUDENTS?

A new passenger lift will be installed in the southern end of Block A, providing access to the upper classrooms for students, staff, and visitors. The project will also provide two accessible toilets to the rear of Block A. A second passenger lift will also be installed in Stage 2 of the masterplan, between Block B and the northern end of Block A to provide accessibility to classrooms in the upper levels of both buildings.

WILL THE KITCHEN AREA BE REPLACED DURING THIS PROJECT/WITH THE CURRENT FUNDING?

When the existing toilet block is demolished, the existing kitchen will be demolished. We understand the kitchen is currently used for the school's cooking and gardening program. The



school will continue to have use of the existing kitchen until the toilet block is demolished, which will be one of the last activities completed by the builders for Stage 1 works.

The school is looking at options to continue delivery of this important program for students, including converting the disused toilet block (behind Block B) into a new kitchen, as it is located near the vegetable garden and chickens.

WILL THE SIDE PARK BE REMOVED?

No, the side park will not be removed as part of the current works. However, to accommodate the double-storey relocatable classrooms in Stage 3 of the masterplan, some works to this area may be required.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACT

WHEN WILL A BUILDER BE APPOINTED AND WHEN IS CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO BEGIN?

A builder is expected to be appointed in December 2022. We anticipate works to begin shortly after this appointment.

WHEN IS CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE?

All works will be complete by Term 3, 2024.

WILL STUDENTS NEED TO BE RELOCATED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Yes, as we are completing upgrade works to existing classrooms, students will need to relocate whilst this work is underway. Student learning and safety is our foremost priority, so we will work to minimise disruptions to students.

WHERE WILL STUDENTS LEARN WHILE BLOCK A IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION?

Some classes will need to relocate to other school buildings while Block A is under construction. We will provide more information on the location and logistics of any changes once a builder is appointed and a construction schedule is finalised.

HOW WILL YOU MINIMISE LEARNING DISRUPTION AND ENSURE STUDENT SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS?

Our highest priority is the safety of all students and their learning. As with all projects, we want to minimise any potential impacts on students and their families.

Our careful plans for site access will mean minimal disruptions to students during construction.

In addition, the construction site will be carefully managed with safety fencing to ensure that students are unable to access the site.

WILL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO BATHROOM AND TOILET FACILITIES?


Students will continue to use the existing student toilet block until after the new toilet block has been constructed. The old toilet block will then be demolished to enable the school to better use the outdoor open space.

WILL TREES NEED TO BE REMOVED? WILL THEY BE REPLACED? IS EXTRA FUNDING REQUIRED FOR ANY REPLACEMENT TREES? WILL THE SCHOOL BE INVOLVED IN THE LANDSCAPING DESIGN (EG WHICH TREES WILL REPLACE ANY THAT ARE REMOVED)?

Three trees located to the rear of Block A will need to be removed as they are causing structural damage to the heritage building. It is not possible to retain these three trees.

We have worked with the structural engineer, landscape architect and arborist to retain as many trees as is safely possible and will provide ample notice to the school and local community before any trees are removed.

The VSBA plans to plant at least two trees of a comparable species for every tree removed, in line with our tree removal and replacement policy.



The proposed landscape plan has been discussed with the school leadership team during regular design meetings.

WILL THE GATHERING SPACE (WHEN IT IS DEMOLISHED) BE IMMEDIATELY REPLACED BY AN ALTERNATIVE SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO USE? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PIZZA OVEN AND STUDENT ARTWORK IN THE EXISTING GATHERING SPACE?

A new gathering space will be built to replace the existing gathering space. There will be new landscaping works around the southern portion of Block A to provide a new outdoor gathering space or yarnning circle that can be used for outdoor learning and community gatherings.

We are currently investigating whether elements of the existing pizza oven can be retained for reuse as part of the new landscaping works for Stage 1. Wherever possible, the existing student artworks will be carefully removed and retained for reuse by the school.

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

ONCE A BUILDER IS APPOINTED, HOW WILL BE NOTIFIED?

Once a builder has been appointed, a construction letter will be distributed to residents and the school community advising when works will begin, and what works residents, and the school community can expect to see.

The school community will also be kept up to date on the upgrade beginning through compass and the school newsletter.

HOW DO WE KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS?

In early October, we notified residents closest to the school and the school community of changes taking place at Kensington Primary School, and invited them to an information session on 12 October.

The school leadership team will continue to keep staff, parents and carers informed and updated throughout the process via the school newsletter and website.

You can also find designs and information about the upgrades on the VSBA webpage at www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/kensington-primary-school

CONTACT US

If you have any further questions about the works at Kensington Primary School you can phone us on **1800 896 950**, email vsba@education.vic.gov.au or visit our website: <https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/>