Community feedback has shaped the design of the new primary school in Docklands.

In May, we asked the local community to share their aspirations and ideas for the school.

This factsheet summarises the key findings from what we heard, and how we incorporated your ideas into the design.

A full report is available at www.engage.vic.gov.au/DocklandsPrimary

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In October 2016, the Victorian Government committed to building a new primary school in Docklands. In April 2017, we announced the site location and appointed architects.

The community’s insights were shared with the architects to help inform the design, and now we have a master plan for the school.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In an effort to hear from a range of people, we held two workshops, ran focus groups, created pop-ups at shopping centres and invited people across the inner city to participate in an online survey.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION

- 4 WEEK ENGAGEMENT
- 106 SUBSCRIBERS TO THE MAILING LIST
- 118 SURVEY RESPONSES
- 157 COMMENT BOARD VOTES
- 1,445 UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITS
- 50+ PEOPLE ATTENDED THE WORKSHOPS AND FOCUS GROUPS
MASTER PLAN
THREE-LEVEL VIEW – LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND OUTDOOR LEARNING TERRACES

Year 4, 5 and 6 learning communities
- City views
- Acoustic control to minimise sound impact from Footscray Road
- Additional air filtration to minimise pollution
- High floor to ceiling dimensions
- Direct access to outdoor learning spaces

Year 2 and 3 learning communities
- Level 1 location
- Acoustic control to minimise sound impact from Footscray Road
- Additional air filtration to minimise pollution
- High floor to ceiling dimensions

Sports hall
- Competition standard netball court
- Raised stage with wings at east end
- Connection to the landscape via tilt lift doors
- Dedicated secure access for community use
- Acoustic treatment to walls and ceiling

Administration
- Prominent central access directly off street
- Passive surveillance from reception to play areas
- Under cover access from administration areas to learning communities

Prep and Year 1 learning communities
- Level 1 location at quiet end of site

Library, music and art rooms
- Dedicated secure access for community use
- Vibrant spaces visible from the street
- Life of the school on display
- Music room features acoustic containment

Roof top plant
- Acoustic louvres control plant noise
- Safe access on trafficable roof with parapet
- Efficient central chiller and boiler

Architect’s impression only. Subject to change.
KEY FINDINGS

Here are the main themes that we heard from the community, and an outline of how they have been addressed in the school's design.

*Please note. The design has not yet been finalised, and is subject to change. Operational aspects (e.g. after-hours use of the site) will be at the school’s discretion.

**KEY FINDINGS**

Participants are seeking a sustainable school building. They would like to see strong natural elements incorporated, including trees and vegetation, and open space for students to run around and play.

- The school will be a ‘learning landscape’, where green gardens and outdoor learning spaces are as important as indoor learning spaces.
- To maximise and make best use of outdoor space, we’ll extend the site through terraces and roof gardens.
- Vegetation will be spread throughout the site. This will offer shelter and opportunities for nature play, with facilities such as sandpits.
- There are a number of options for outdoor learning spaces, including green walls and edible gardens.
- At the heart of the site will be a highly active play area, including a sports court.
- We are considering numerous ways to make the school sustainable. These include reusing rain water, establishing urban edible gardens, and using solar cells and passive design principles.
- The new school will be designed to endure the tests of time and be adaptable to future needs.

Participants feel the new school provides an opportunity to create and enhance a sense of community belonging and identity in Docklands. This could be achieved through community spaces at the school, and connecting students to local community facilities.

- The school has potential to offer new facilities and amenities for the inner-city community, and to encourage residents to actively engage and contribute to the school.
- It is expected that the community will be able to use school facilities – including the sports hall, art room and library – after school hours.
- The landscape and outdoor play areas will provide valuable recreational space for local residents.
- The design will promote connectivity to the community, and put the life and activity of the school on display.
- The school will be able to extend learning into the wider community by making use of surrounding facilities, including the local Ron Barassi Park and the harbour front, as well as the greater CBD community (which is readily accessible via tram).
Participants support an inclusive curriculum that offers a wide range of practical and specialist skills, including a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

- Learning spaces are being designed to be flexible and responsive. They will offer a range of settings, including some ideal for teaching STEM.
- Strong links from indoor to outdoor will provide opportunities for practical experiments in the natural world.
- An emphasis on STEM has been included in the ‘education specification’ – which sets out the educational vision for the school. This will guide design detail, and be used by the principal to help establish the educational aspects of the school.

Safe and easy access to the school for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and vehicles is important.

- We have carefully considered the logistics and needs of families during pick-up and drop-off times.
- St Mangoes Lane will be extended to Little Docklands Drive, allowing for vehicles to circuit around the site, and enter from both streets. This will help ease drop-off and pick-up congestion.
- The design includes consideration of waiting areas for parents, both in wet and hot weather.
- There will be extensive bike parking.
- Pedestrian crossings and drop-off zones are being planned and developed with the City of Melbourne.
- The site is easy to access using public transport, via a short walk from the tram stop on Docklands Drive via St Mangoes Lane.

Celebrating multiculturalism and social diversity is important.

- Celebrating multiculturalism and social diversity has been included within the ‘education specification’ – which sets out the educational vision for the school. This will guide design detail, and be used by the principal to help establish the operational and educational aspects of the school.
VIEW FROM LITTLE DOCKLANDS DRIVE – WHOLE VIEW OF FRONT OF SCHOOL

Contact us
You can contact the Victorian School Building Authority via:
Email: vsba@edumail.vic.gov.au
Phone: 1800 896 950
Weekdays from 9am to 5pm
/victorianschoolbuild
@VICSchoolBuild
www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au

For information in your language, please call the Victorian School Building Authority’s translation service on 03 9280 0712.