

ROSARY SCHOOL PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Rosary School

Rosary School is a Reception to Year 6 Catholic School and our community is growing. Many of our school buildings do not provide the space needed and many of the school buildings and play equipment have reached their useful life.

New contemporary facilities and spaces are needed to continue to provide innovative education and enable our students to learn in a happy and nurturing environment now and for many years to come.

To guide this, we developed and are progressing our Master Plan, with a development application soon to be lodged with the City of Prospect.



Figure 1: Architectural perspective - View West of proposed building on Staples Court, Prospect

Development proposal

In 2020, Rosary School began a process to develop a Master Plan for the School. Consultation with the school leadership team, staff and students have shaped the Master Plan. Feedback from a range of respondents to our 2022 survey of the school community, including staff and parents, included their views of current school facilities, areas for improvement, along with thoughts on the draft concept. These were further considered in shaping the development now proposed.

The key elements of the development proposal are:

- » A new 2-3 storey building on Staples Court with connected outdoor learning and landscaping
- » A new 'Heart of the School' as a central courtyard and gathering space for the children and school community
- » New amphitheatre, outdoor gathering space with seating and lawn spaces
- » Improved school entrances with landscaping on Gladstone Road to enhance street presence
- » New well connected, drive-through student drop-off and pick up zone
- » New staff carpark
- » Nature playground and exploration play
- » Challenge play area
- » Removal of existing aged classrooms including the transportable buildings

Features of the proposed development

Based on feedback, new classrooms and improvements to outdoor spaces are key to addressing the school's needs.

The development aims to create contemporary classrooms and specialist teaching areas that respond flexibly to the needs of students and teachers.

The redevelopment will include new learning areas, student break out and outdoor learning environments providing opportunities for children to work in a variety of settings that support their learning requirements.

NEW BUILDING

A new 2-3 storey building is proposed to be constructed on Staples Court. Its position on the southern side of the site, fronting Staples Court, will maximise the space available for new courtyard, gathering spaces and play areas.

Designed to respond to the neighbouring context including materials, scale and form, the new building is designed to connect learning areas and shared/breakout spaces through openings to the central internal courtyard.

CENTRAL COURTYARD

Members of our community have shared the value of the Rosary School Hall and the spiritual, cultural and historical connections to the space.

While the development proposes to remove the hall, given the need for new contemporary learning spaces, the proposal seeks to retain and reimagine the space as the Dominican heart and centre of school life and activity.

The new central courtyard is designed to integrate indoor and outdoor learning environments and provide the opportunity for reflection and storytelling.

OUTDOOR SPACES AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

A new play area with nature play and exploration playground is proposed to replace the existing transportable buildings.

A new challenge play area with connected upper-level walkways is proposed to be located centrally within the main school site to provide separation between residential neighbours and the main outdoor activity areas.

The play areas are enhanced with lawn, an amphitheatre and seating as well as extensive landscaping to provide shade and improve visual amenity.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

With a growing school community, traffic management and parking have been key considerations in the development of the proposal.

A specialist traffic engineer has looked at site planning and layout options to accommodate on-site parking and improve the efficiency of traffic flow to minimise off-site impacts on neighbours and local streets.

The proposed development includes removing staff vehicle movements from Staples Court by relocating the existing staff carpark. This facilitates the redesign of the existing carpark for a new one-way set-down and pick-up arrangement on-site, supplementing existing on-street arrangements.

Approval process

Approval for the proposed development will be sought from the City of Prospect.

In making a decision, the Council Assessment Panel will have regard to the provisions of the Planning and Design Code, along with feedback received through its public notification process.

Subject to planning consent, we expect that staged construction would start in 2023.

Figure 2: Proposed Site Plan

