

03 Key Consultations

03.6 Site Tour - Lucas Gardens School at Five Dock, NSW

The PRG participated in a site tour and discussion of NSW DoE Lucas Gardens School (GAO, 2016), a Special Needs Education School in Five Dock NSW. The combined tour/ PRG was organised with the Lucas Gardens Principal, Jenny Zagas, to assist the school in understanding the benefits of collaborative learning and visualising the types of spaces associated with this learning rationale. The Mainsbridge School Principal and Deputy Principal participated in the tour, along with Hayball architects and DoE Director.

The tour included the following:

1. Introduction of Lucas Gardens School by the Principal Gianoula Zagas.
2. Tour through the School learning communities for years K-12. The tour took place while class was in session, allowing the Mainsbridge School educators to observe students learning and staff teaching as a team in the space.
3. Discussion and Q+A between the Lucas Gardens School Principal, Lucas Gardens teachers and the PRG group. Discussion points included:
 - Lessons learnt from the project
 - Professional development/ training for teaching to use the new spaces
 - Acoustics between learning studios
 - Teacher and Student storage needs
 - Use of the learning hub for the whole learning community, requiring the timetabling of spaces
 - Outdoor learning opportunities in the design.
 - Double storey learning spaces and accessibility
 - Amenities and storage relationship to studios

Key outcomes from the tour include:

- Listening to educators explaining the benefits of the education model adopted and the positive effects it has on learners and themselves.
- School gaining a greater understanding and visualising shared practical activities areas and learning common spaces
- Understanding how Lucas Gardens provided readiness to learn spaces (RTLS) and quiet space zones within studios.
- Access of wet areas within studios, sharing amenities.
- School gaining a greater understanding of the built-in joinery storage solutions and sliding walls being proposed in the new spaces.



GARDEN LEARNING SETTINGS



MULTI PURPOSE SPACE / HALL



OUTDOOR - INDOOR LEARNING COMMON TERRACE



ADMINISTRATION, STAFF RESOURCES AND LIBRARY SPACE

03

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UPPER LEVEL LIBRARY HUB



LEARNING COMMON WITH PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AREA (UPPER LEVEL)



ACTIVE PLAY AREAS



MULTIPURPOSE SPACE -LIBRARY HUB/ OUTDOOR INTEGRATION

03

Key Consultations

03.7

Community Consultation Survey

Through the Concept Design and Approved Concept Design phases Hayball assisted GHD in preparing graphic, written content and surveys for community consultation sessions.

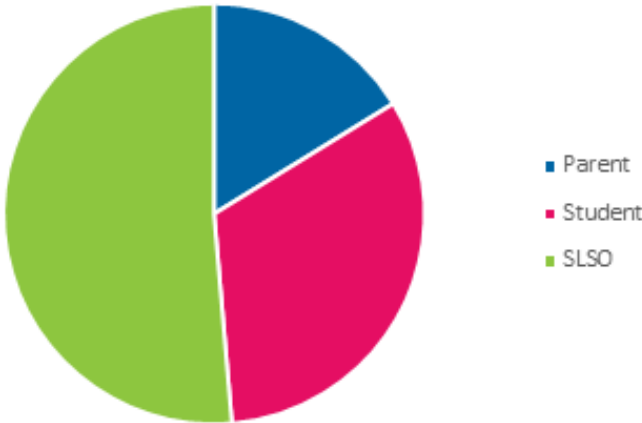
Consultation occurred with:

1. The Mainsbridge School Community, including parents and carers
2. The Warwick Farm Public School Community, including parents and carers
3. The Mainsbridge School staff and educators
4. The local Liverpool community

See Appendix for the Mainsbridge School and Warwick Farm Primary School community consultation summary.

Survey participants

The survey targeted the school community of Mainsbridge School. There were 39 participants which included parents, teachers, and student learning support officers (SLSO).



School:
Role (student/parent/teacher):
Name (optional):
Email (optional):

What do you value most about your school?

What are the most important learning elements you would like to see in the proposed Multipurpose Space?

Please rank from 1 – 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important

☐

Kitchen facilities

☐

Indoor / Outdoor bench

☐

Retractable stage

☐

Stage with raised platform

☐

Connection to outdoor area

Warwick Farm Public School Survey

School:
Role (student/parent/teacher):
Name (optional):
Email (optional):

My child learns best:

(Please circle the answers that are relevant)

- a) In larger groups of students
- b) In smaller groups of students
- c) Individually
- d) When working on projects or solving problems
- e) When they have quiet and reflective time to read and think
- f) In a mix of different styles, including both indoor and outdoor learning

What do you value most about your current school?

What are the most important learning elements you would like to see in the proposed school design?

Please rank from 1 – 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important

☐

Nook spaces for quiet reading and reflection

☐

Spaces for performance and presentation

☐

Encouraging independence and self-management

☐

Using new technology to enhance learning

☐

Learning by working together in teams and collaboration

☐

Life / Trade skills facilities

Mainsbridge School Survey

03

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03.7

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NOTE: also refer to separate Communications Outcomes Report (GHD) for details

Student learning

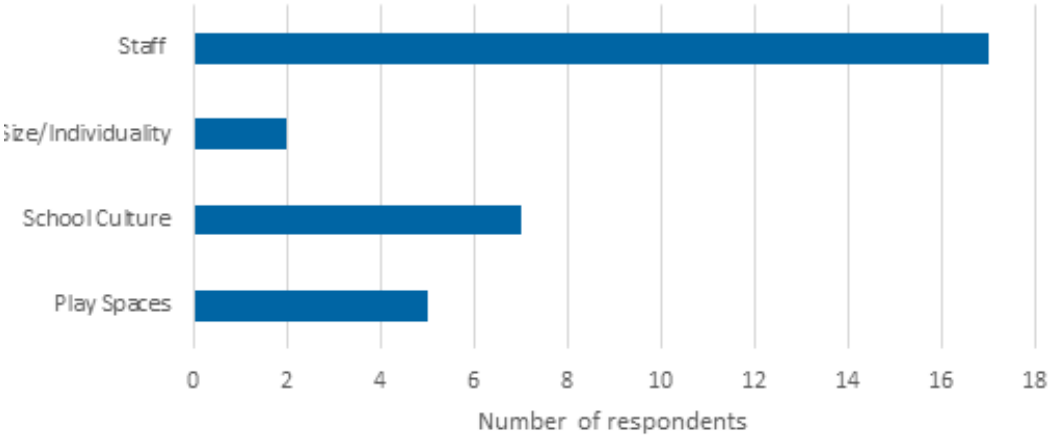
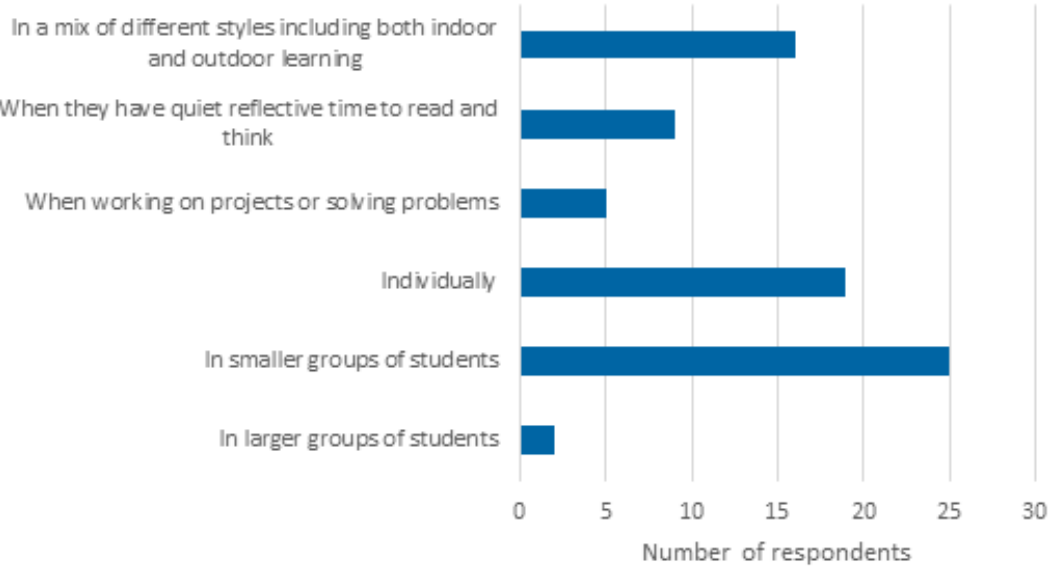
Participants were asked to select the most relevant answers in response to how their child learns best. This question was designed to link with the approach to creating different learning spaces for the school.

Student learning

Participants were asked an open ended question about what they valued most about their school. A text analysis revealed a number of themes. Of the 33 participants who responded to this question, reoccurring responses spanned from the school staff (17 mentions), positive school culture and atmosphere (7 mentions), safe and secure play spaces (5 mentions) and the value placed on individuality due to the small class sizes (2 mentions).

Learning elements

Participants were asked to rank from 1 to 6 (1 being most important, 6 being least important), the most important learning elements to them.



03

Key Consultations

03.7

Community Consultation Survey

School conectivity and transition

Participants were asked to provide an insight into the ideal relationship between Mainsbridge School and Warwick Farm Public School. Of the 37 participants who responded to this question, there were four key themes.

Environmental sustainability

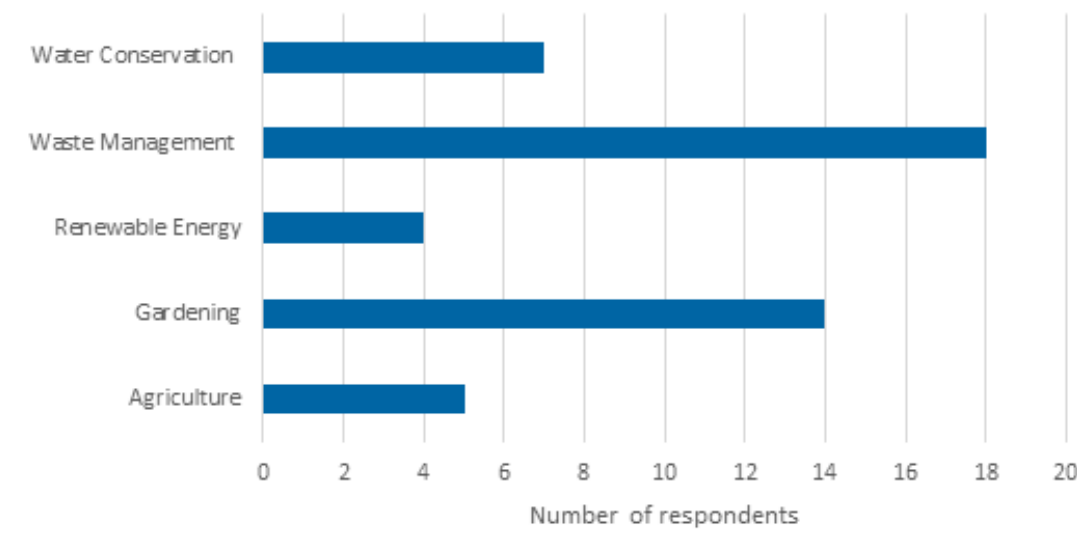
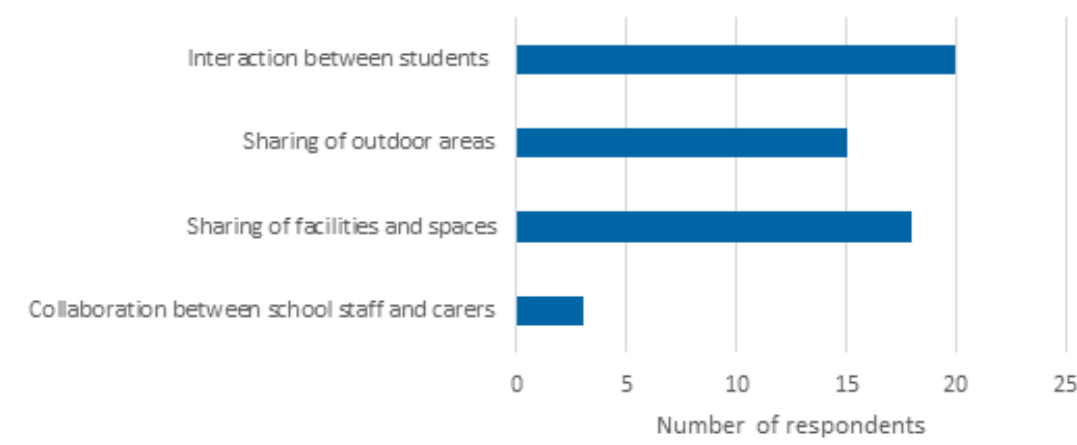
Participants were asked if it was important that students learn about environmental sustainability. Of the 38 participants who responded to this question, all of them answered ‘yes’.

Respondents were asked to provide suggestions of ways students could learn about environmental sustainability.

Parent & Carers meetings

The comments listed below refer to enquiries and conversation between GHD representatives and Parent meeting attendees. These included:

- How does the Warwick Farm school community feel about the move?
- Will the site be fenced off?
- Will all buildings be accessible?
- Will there be amenities accessible from the learning spaces?
- What will the courtyard be like?
- Will there be intrafencing?
- How will the second floor be accessed?
- Will the high school students and primary school students still be separated?
- How is parent drop off going to work?
- Will there be parking for parents?
- Balustrades present a risk to students?
- Will there be a trade skills kitchen?
- Will there be a GA’s shed?
- Will there be a pool?
- How many students will there be at the new school?



We are committed to designing a future-focused school that is learner centric and meets the specific needs of Mainsbridge School and surrounding community.

- This is achieved through a collaborative process of developing the first principles with the school:
- Education Rationale
 - Education Principles unique to the school and its ethos
 - Design Principles that respond to the Education Principles
 - Design Principles that responds to the site

To ensure the Education Principles and Design Principles are incorporated into the design strategy, any design developments proposed are charted and scored against the matrix of principles in order to achieve the best design outcomes for the school.



