

Armstrong Creek Education Precinct – Frequently Asked Questions

The Armstrong Creek Education Precinct will open for students in Term 1, 2018.

The Precinct will comprise of Prep-Grade 6 mainstream education provision and Prep – Year 12 special education provision on the one site at Armstrong Creek

It is being delivered through the New Schools Public Private Partnership Project.

The Department of Education and Training will be consulting the local school community about the approach to inclusive education at Armstrong Creek and the needs of the community and future students.

SCHOOL ESTABLISHMENT

When will Armstrong Creek Educational Precinct open?

Construction will start in October 2016 and the school will be open for students from Term 1, 2018.

When will a Principal be appointed?

Principal recruitment will start later this year with an appointment made by December 2016. The Principal will officially begin in their role in Term 2, 2017.

How will the school be established?

Local School Reference Groups will be formed to help make important decisions on the school establishment, like the school name and uniform selection. The Reference Group will act as an interim school council until a formal school council is elected. The group will be made up of local Principals, teachers, parents, school council presidents and school region representatives.

The School Reference Group will provide a link between the school and the community during the planning and construction stages of the project. The group will also ensure local input into the project and assist with the development of the school culture.

Consultation will occur throughout the establishment of the school. This will take place at through Community Information Sessions and ongoing engagement between the Reference Group and community members.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT

What is a Public Private Partnership?

A Public Private Partnership (PPP) captures the most efficient elements of both the public and private sectors to deliver good quality outcomes for Victorians.

Under a PPP arrangement, private sector consortium Learning Communities Victoria is responsible for financing, designing, building and maintaining 15 schools across some of Victoria's key growth areas, including the Armstrong Creek Education Precinct.

The schools will be maintained to high standards over a 25 year operating term.

In 2010 and 2011, 12 new schools were delivered using the PPP model under the *Partnerships Victoria in Schools* Project.

Who is in the private sector consortium?

The members of the Learning Communities Victoria consortium include:

- Amber Infrastructure as consortium sponsor
- ClarkeHopkinsClarke as architect
- Watpac as builder
- Spotless as facilities manager and
- The YMCA and Centre for Education Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) as community partners.

What does the PPP mean for the day-to-day operation of Armstrong Creek Educational Precinct?

Under the New Schools PPP Project, Government will retain responsibility for the delivery of all education services, while the private sector will be responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the facilities.

Principals and teachers will be relieved from the day-to-day maintenance of school facilities and grounds so they can focus on student learning without the distraction of undertaking arranging maintenance. If a repair is required, for example, school staff will simply have to log a call with

the maintenance provider, who will be obliged to make the repair within a set period of time.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

What facilities are being delivered at the Armstrong Creek Education Precinct?

The school has been designed with the local community in mind and will be a gathering place for families and residents to enjoy community, sports and recreation programs. The facilities will include:

- an indoor gymnasium built to Netball Victoria standards
- outdoor hardcourts and sporting fields
- an additional multi-purpose space that will be used by the school during school hours and will be used by the YMCA out of school hours to provide a range of community services and programs
- embedded environmental sustainability education via the CERES ResourceSmart Schools program initiative and
- a range of multi-purpose and flexible spaces, including conference, therapy and interview rooms.

Unique design features of the Education Precinct also include:

- sensory gardens with winding paths, seating, bird feeders and tactile play features enabling students to interact and engage with natural settings
- acoustically treated and sensitive learning spaces which minimise disturbance from other activities
- sensory rooms as an inclusive space equipped with interactive equipment to provide visual, auditory and tactile activities
- tactile sensory stimulation on corridor walls and learning spaces and
- sensory pressure poles to enrich the sensory environment and provide calming support for students.

Are there Council facilities nearby?

Yes. The City of Greater Geelong is in the process of planning an Early Learning Centre that will be located adjacent to Armstrong Creek. The centre will provide kindergarten, day care, and maternal child health services.

A Council sporting precinct will be located opposite Armstrong Creek, including two ovals.

Does my child have to attend the new school?

Your child has the right to attend the government school closest to where your family lives. You can choose to send your child to a different government school if that school has places available.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Why is a community engagement project taking place?

The Department is engaging with the local school community to talk about the benefits of the inclusive education model that will be offered at Armstrong Creek and understand the needs of the local community, including the needs of future students and their families.

What are the objectives of the community engagement?

The objectives of the community engagement are to ensure that Armstrong Creek can meet the diverse needs of the school community, including the needs of students with disabilities and mainstream students enrolled at the school.

The community engagement project will also encourage conversations that ensure Armstrong Creek works closely with the other schools in the Geelong area providing education to students with disabilities to ensure that the Department of Education can meet the education needs of students in the Greater Geelong area.

How can I be involved?

If you would like to participate in the community engagement or have any questions in relation to Armstrong Creek Education Precinct, please contact schools.ppp@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Please note: the community engagement process will conclude on 30 September 2016.

How will my feedback be used?

Information gathered through the community engagement project will identify issues/challenges and opportunities with the development of Armstrong Creek and will inform the planning committee, once established, to create a 21st Century learning precinct.

Is what I say anonymous?

Individuals will not be identified in the final engagement report, only organisations/groups being represented.

How will the engagement outcomes be used?

Engagement outcomes will be used to address potential challenges/issues raised by the community prior to the opening of the school in 2018.

KEEPING UPDATED

How do I find out more?

The Government has created a new body specifically to deliver school building projects – the Victorian School Building Authority.

This Authority has been set up to deliver the Government's unprecedented investment in school infrastructure.

You can get updates on the Armstrong Creek Education Precinct project at the Authority's new website. Each building project has its own webpage.

www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au

You can also visit, call or email us for more details too:

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Find out what's happening near you at:

www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au

