

Fort Street Public School NSW | Australia

01

Specifications

Client: School Infrastructure NSW
 Year: 2019 - 2022
 Location: Observatory Hill, NSW
 Budget: \$53m
 Area: N/A
 Year Levels: K - 6
 Students: 550
 Architect: FJMT



Photo 1| Existing School Site
 Source: A View of Sydney

02

Overview

Established as one of Australia's first public schools in 1842, FSPS is a K-6 primary school occupying a unique site atop Observatory Hill near the Sydney Harbour Bridge. FSPS takes great pride in its rich history. NLE was initially appointed to support the development of the business case and then later supported the design team through the concept and schematic design phases.

03

Process

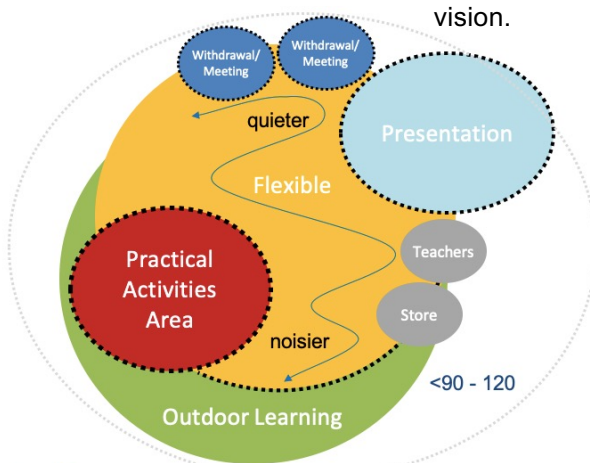
The process commenced with visioning exercises that would allow us to develop and Educational Model to accompany the Business Case. The Model was revisited upon the appointment of a design team and the revised vision was then applied to subsequent design phases. NLE conducted workshops with school staff and supported the design team in the alignment of pedagogy and space. The final output was a Translational Brief demonstrating how the approved design is a response to the original educational vision.

04

Outcomes

The school embraced a learning hub typology with each cluster of spaces supporting multiple class groups in a blend of both open and enclosed learning spaces. The typology had to be adapted to fit within the existing heritage buildings as well as the new buildings which were susceptible to the needs of a highly constrained site with complex heritage considerations. Each learning hub will support either 2 or 3 class groups and will include different open and enclosed spaces for presentation, quiet retreat and meetings, practical activities area, informal learning and collaborative learning.

There was a very strong emphasis on maximising outdoor play space across the site which meant a need for multi-level buildings and the use of rooftop play areas. Clever solutions for pick up and drop off were developed that would allow this zone to operate as much needed play space during school hours, with a fencing/gate system that could be adapted to allow a turning circle for cars in the mornings and afternoons.



← Student movement
 Sliders, operable walls, flexible screening

Photo 2| Learning Hub Typology Diagram
 Source: NLE

