

# Denham Court Public School



Innovative Learning  
Environments

## WHO WE ARE?

Denham Court Public School is a brand-new state of the art facility built within the Willowdale Estate. Our school has been specifically designed with **contemporary, sustainable learning environments** that:

- Promote learning for students and teachers through collaborative, social interaction and active investigation.
- Encourage learner self-management and self-direction.
- Support a full range of teaching strategies from direct explicit instruction to facilitation of inquiry and authentic project and problem based learning.
- Facilitate learning and connection anywhere, anytime by providing seamless access to ICT and integration of learning resources throughout the learning spaces.
- Be integrated into and maximise the use of the natural environment.
- Enable aspects of the buildings, building design and outdoor spaces to be learning tools in themselves – for example, learning from the ecologically sustainable features of the design and associated energy management systems.



## WHAT ARE FUTURE FOCUSED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS?

*The majority of Australian school buildings were built between 1800's and 1970's. Since then, teaching practices and the needs of students have drastically changed. Technology and building materials enable learning spaces to be new, vibrant and well connected. All students deserve to benefit from these environments and the teaching practices that go alongside them.*

Future Focused learning environments are innovative, modern, creative, inspiring and inquiry driven from both teachers and students. Future Focused Learning Environments are an ecosystem that considers learners, educators, families, communities and content. It also considers resources like property and technology. It is about everything working together to support teachers and learners and ensuring our young people are confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners.

## KEY BENEFITS OF FOCUSED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Increased collaboration between students
- Increased collaboration between teachers
- Teachers sharing their strengths with each other.
- Student agency is developed.
- More choice in what and where to learn.
- Key global competencies are encouraged.
- Inquiry is fostered.
- Works on a strengths based approach
- At least four experts working within the space allows for a much more targeted and personalised support towards learning for every student.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What teaching and learning happens?***

We continue to use the NSW Syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum to underpin our teaching and learning practices.

You might see more collaboration between teachers and students. Innovation, teachers trying different approaches and utilising their strengths. Teachers working closely with one another. You will continue to see teachers working with groups, ability based and mixed ability also. Children working independently and self direction at different levels. Whole class teaching and students working flexibly around the room will also be apparent.

### ***Are the class sizes larger now?***

No, Denham Court Public School is guided by the Department of Education staffing to student ratios. Class sizes vary year to year and class make ups vary depending on numbers in year levels and enrolments.

### ***How will my child be supported?***

Your child will receive the targeted support and interventions they require as they would in a traditional classroom. Our learning spaces will have a minimum of four experts working with students individually, in small groups and as whole 'classes' ensuring that learning is targeted to students point of need. Our hubs will also have EAL/D and LaST teachers and SLSO's working with students in these spaces.

***How will the noise be managed?***

Our school has been designed with state-of-the-art sound insulation panels and acoustic absorbers within the walls and ceilings of every learning space.

***Are other schools running Future Focused Learning Environments?***

There sure are!

This is the way modern schools across Australia are being built. Some other examples are Bayanami Public School, Jordan Springs Public School, Smalls Road Public School, Galungara Public School, Anzac Park Public School and many more.