

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Planned Expansion of St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Baranduda

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions and answers which will provide some clarity regarding the planned expansion of St Francis of Assisi Primary School Baranduda. Information will continue to be provided as the planning process occurs.

What is the announcement about?

Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited Ltd (CES Ltd) has announced that it is planning to expand St Francis of Assisi Primary School in Baranduda to include the provision of secondary education for Years 7 to 12. The potential for establishing a Kindergarten/Preschool on site will also be considered during the planning process.

Why was this decision made?

The expansion is based upon the projected population growth of Baranduda, Wodonga and surrounding communities, as well as the subsequent enrolment demands for Catholic Education Wodonga (CEW) schools.

Where will the secondary college be located?

The existing school site and the two parcels of adjacent land will be considered by the Project Control Group (PCG) to accommodate the expansion.

What will be the name of the expanded school?

The name for the expanded school has not been finalised and a consultation process, involving stakeholders, will occur as part of determining the final name. This process will examine potentially retaining the existing name of St Francis of Assisi, or considering an alternate name.

What is the anticipated start date of the expanded school?

It is anticipated that the first Year 7 classes will begin in 2029. An exact year and date will be dependent on capital funding for the proposed building programme.

When will the new school be built?

It is anticipated that funding applications for the construction of Stage 1 learning facilities to accommodate 240 students will be lodged with the State Government for Capital funding in 2023. Construction is then anticipated to commence in late 2026 and will continue over 2027 and 2028. Because of the potential size of the expanded school, construction will continue to occur over the following years in a staged approach.

Will this school be competing for students with Catholic College Wodonga?

No. St Francis of Assisi Primary School and Catholic College Wodonga have a trusted and cooperative relationship and this relationship will continue. The demand for Catholic Secondary education in the Wodonga area is extremely high. As the City of Wodonga continues to grow, the two Colleges will work closely together and with the local Parish and Diocese of Sandhurst, to ensure the city has two strong colleges providing high quality Catholic education for families.

What will this mean for students currently at St Francis of Assisi Primary School?

With the immediate priority being focused upon planning for the expansion, current students will see no visible difference in the high-quality education currently provided by the committed teaching staff of St Francis of Assisi Primary School. The first Year 7 classes will begin in 2029, providing a fantastic opportunity for those students who are in Year 6 in 2028 to move seamlessly into Year 7 if so desired.

What does this mean for the staff at St Francis of Assisi Primary School?

Though there will be no immediate changes for staff, as the planning for the expansion progresses, staff will have the opportunity to be involved in the development of design elements.

If my child attends St Francis of Assisi Primary School, do they have to attend Secondary School there once Year 7 begins?

No. We are committed to providing parents and students with a choice of Catholic education providers and respect the personal choices of families relating to where students attend their secondary schooling.

Will there be a Kindergarten/Preschool on site?

As part of the planning process, consideration will be given to establishing a Kindergarten/Preschool on site. The establishment of a Kindergarten/Preschool will take into account such factors as demand on Kindergarten/Preschool places, links between the school and any potential Kindergarten/Preschool, as well as identifying a suitable location within the St Francis of Assisi site plan.

I live in the local Baranduda community. How will I know what's going on?

The anticipated expansion of the St Francis of Assisi Primary School will provide the local Baranduda community with a fantastic opportunity to have a F-12 College located within the local district. St Francis of Assisi Primary School respects and values its local community and is committed to keeping the local community informed and engaged throughout the planning and implementation process.

Now the announcement has been made, what are the current priorities?

A Project Control Group (PCG) is currently being established to work with stakeholders regarding the governance, educational philosophy, site and building design, construction and determining arrangements for the commencement of the new secondary classes. The membership of the PCG will include representatives from CES Ltd, the Parish of Wodonga, the Principal, Deputy Principal and staff with a focus on learning and teaching from St Francis of Assisi Primary School and technical consultants to provide specialised building and learning input.

I have further questions so who should I speak to? OR Where can I find updates on the proposed expansion of St Francis of Assisi Primary School Wodonga?

Updates can be found on the schools website under the tab 'building for the future'. Contact can also be made directly with Mrs Jennyne Wilkinson, Principal of St Francis of Assisi.