Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Why are we building new classrooms?**

Our current Year One classrooms, toilets and canteen are in a building that was constructed in 1961. We want to increase the space available for learning and improve the function of these learning spaces so that they allow a 21st Century education to be available to children attending St John’s.

- **Is there an intention to increase the school population?**

Our intention is to create a design for a two-stream (two class in each grade) school plus one extra class for children with disabilities – 15 classes in all. We will also be considering smaller meeting rooms and withdrawal rooms as part of the plan.

- **How is the building project being funded?**

The Parish will contribute one third of the cost of the car park and hall project. The Catholic Schools Office will use funding from the Diocesan Building Fund to cover remaining costs. Money collected from the Diocesan Building Levy charged to each family in the diocese is used to pay diocesan building debt, some maintenance costs and some special projects. No extra funding for building will be required from parents with children attending St John’s. Parents are contributing significantly to diocesan capital costs already. This project is not linked to recently announced school fee increases.

Money from tuition fees is not used to fund building costs.

Some costs may need to be covered by the school e.g. a new sound system.

- **Will there be a Development Application (DA) lodged?**

A DA has already been accepted by council for the use of the area in front of the hall and behind the Church to be used as a car park. The Parish and CSO believe this development already satisfies the requirements of the approved DA. There would be a new DA required to develop the area in front of the Church.

Despite the above, once plans are finalised they will be taken to a town planner for advice about a Development Application. If one is needed, it will be lodged. All legal processes will be followed.

- **Why is the area in front of the Church not being developed as a car park? Can the presbytery be changed as part of this plan?**

The Parish does not wish to disturb the natural feel of this area, nor does the Bishop wish to have the presbytery altered. Enquiries will be made to see if car spaces can be allocated within a natural landscaped design at the front of the Church.

- **Why is a shared hard surface necessary?**

Parishioners have requested to have easy, safe access to the Church along with accessible parking for special Parish events and for weekend masses. Children need adequate space on which to play and do outdoor learning e.g. Physical Education and Sport. A shared hard surface allows both needs to be met.
Inclement weather means that parking access to the Church is limited and that there are potential maintenance costs associated with keeping the whole parking area as a grassed surface. A hard surface provides all year round access for parking on a level surface.

- **How will safety be taken into consideration?**

A ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ will be developed between the schools and the Parish Priest concerning the use of the space.

- **How will construction affect my child and their learning?**

The school will work with those responsible for the building to relocate classes, where necessary, on site. Safety procedures will be well planned and communicated so that construction and learning can take place. A staged process for construction will be developed.

- **When will building take place?**

A staged schedule is to be developed once plans are finalised. These are not ready as yet. Allocated money needs to be spent by the end of 2017.

- **Will children lose all green play space?**

No. The access road to the hall will be removed and replaced with grass. A grassed area of approximately 800 square metres will be retained between the synthetic grass and the new asphalt area. We are also planning to relocate and re-organise creative play space within the play equipment area.

- **Will play space be lost?**

Our plans actually increase the total area of play space available to the children. The difference will be in the construction of play surfaces. The area on the roof of the new classrooms replaces the area being taken for construction.

- **Who owns the land on which the school and the Church are built?**

The land is owned by the Parish of Warringah, in the name of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

- **How can I communicate my view on these proposals?**

All families were emailed a link to a survey during Term One. The link was also sent via TIQBLZ. Hard copy surveys were also issued at Mass and collection of information closed April 8th.

- **Who makes the final decision about building plans?**

Comments and feedback from the community were collated and given to the Local Project Control Group who is developing concept plans. The final decision on building rests with the Diocesan Building Control Group (Director of Schools, Head of Finance, Independent Architect, Facilities Officer, Schools Consultant, Parish Priest and School Principal).