Frequently Asked Questions:

Why are we building new classrooms?

Our current Year One classrooms, toilets and canteen are in a building that has served us well since the 1960’s. It is now time for an upgrade. We want to increase the space available for learning and improve the function of our learning spaces to ensure they better suit a modern learning environment.

How is the building project being funded?

The Diocesan Building Fund will provide the funding for this project with a contribution from the Parish.

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 take part in outdoor learning e.g. Physical Education and Sport. A shared hard surface allows both needs to be met. A designated shared area can also be organised safely for specific Church use during special occasions. A ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ will be developed between the school 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. We will aim to minimise disruption as far as possible.

When will building take place?

We would like construction to be completed by the end of 2017 according to a staged process. Staging will be discussed as the conceptual process develops.

Will children lose play space?

The area for outdoor activity will not decrease if all concept drawings go to planning and construction stage. Outdoor surfaces are planned to vary and include synthetic grass, asphalt and natural grass. A grassed area will be created between the new hard surface and the synthetic grass by removing the access road to the hall and replacing it with grass. We will consider ideas for relocation or creatively re-thinking what to do with existing facilities e.g. the amphitheatre and the Parish garage.

Who makes the final decision about building plans?

Comments and feedback from the community will be collated and given to the Local Project Control Group which 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). This group meets on behalf of the Bishop.

How can I communicate my view on these proposals?

Please complete the ‘Survey Monkey’ comment facility on the website or submit a written response to the following address:

St Johns Communications Group
166 Alfred Street
NARRAWEEENA NSW 2099