

St John's Primary School Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) Update

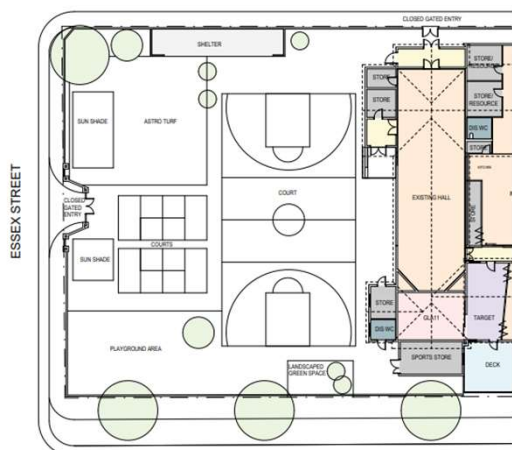


September 2026

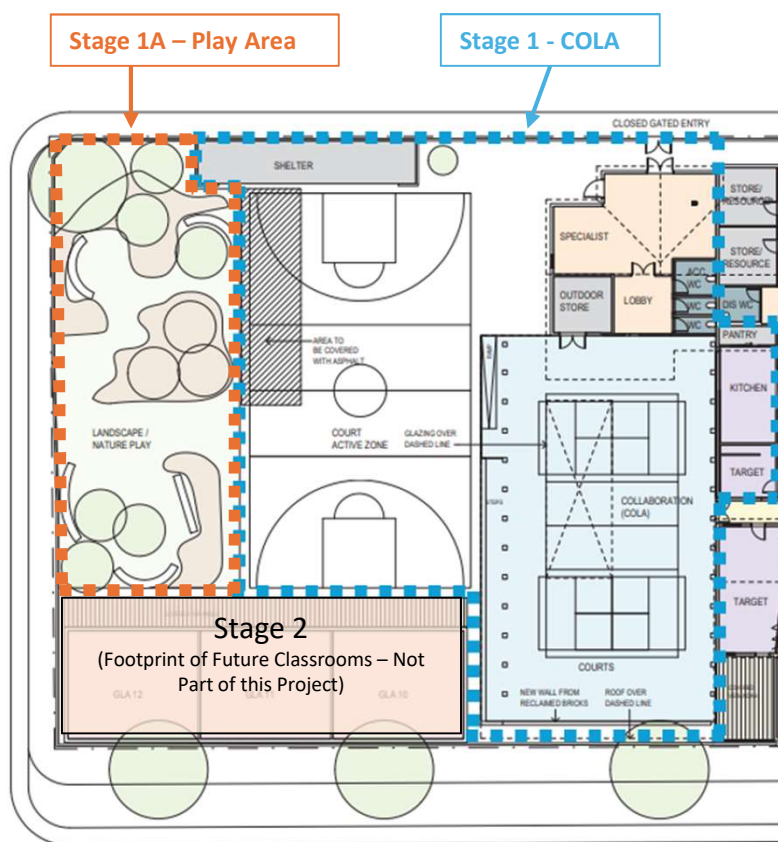
We are pleased to provide a detailed update on the Hall works, as there have been some key developments over the last couple of months. Going forward we will refer to the project as the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) Project. This is because the majority of the hall footprint is planned to be converted to a multi-purpose outdoor space. A section of the hall is planned to be preserved and refurbished, at the Eleanor St end. The Project has a budget of just over \$3 million.

The COLA is the first stage of future works planned for the school as part of the school's Master Plan, which has been endorsed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). Below is a diagram taken from the Master Plan showing the now fully funded Stage 1 COLA works, which includes:

- Partial demolition of the existing hall
- Newly created specialist learning spaces
- Refurbished kitchen with dual access
- New covered outdoor learning area (COLA)
- New ambulant toilets
- New basketball court
- New outdoor store
- New glazed sliders, walls and doors



EXISTING



PROPOSED

Stage 1A, is currently a concept as outlined on page 1 and is being developed by our architect and will be priced as an option by our builder. The decision to proceed will depend upon the pricing received. Details of this space include:

- New outdoor play area
- New landscaped area
- New outdoor seating area to facilitate outdoor teaching and learning
- The existing shade structures could be incorporated into the new design
- Potential for new exterior perimeter fencing

We are currently working with MACS to determine how the area within the future Stage 2 footprint is developed. If the Stage 2 works are planned a long way into the future, we will seek for this area to be included in the Stage 1A play area, pending budget.

The timeline for the delivery of the COLA Project is as follows:

Phase 1 – Detailed design, planning permit and Jemena works (by Feb 2027)

Phase 2 – Tender the works (Feb 2027 – April 2027)

Phase 3 – Appoint a builder (May 2027)

Phase 4 – Construction (Mid 2027 – Late 2027)

Representatives from the St Johns Parents and Friends Association (PFA) and the School Advisory Council (SAC) are supporting Emily in regular fortnightly meetings with the assigned MACS Project Manager to discuss and monitor progress. We are also exploring avenues to assist progress, such as arranging discussions with our local State member, Katie Hall.

Some further concepts are provided below, noting that the images provided are a concept only at this stage. The final arrangements are subject to planning approvals and the architect's properly integrated detailed design.



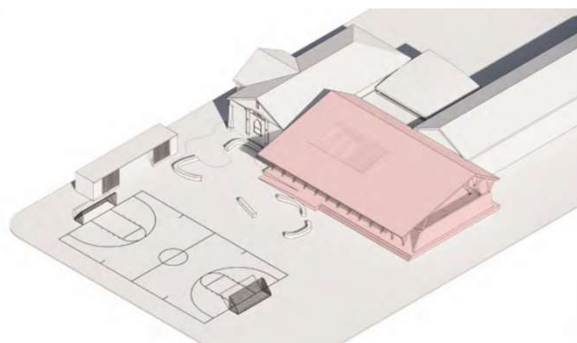
VIEW OF WEST ELEVATION (FACING ESSEX STREET)



VIEW OF WEST ELEVATION SHOWING RETAINED SECTION OF EXISTING HALL



COLA LOOKING TOWARD RETAINED SECTION OF HALL



AXONOMETRIC VIEW (COLA HIGHLIGHTED)