



MINERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL DESIGN ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Since 2015, the Victorian Government has invested more than \$6.1 billion to build new schools and modernise more than 1,400 existing ones. The government has pledged to continue this record funding and open 100 new schools over eight years (2019 – 2026)

To meet the needs of the growing local community and prepare for future students, the Victorian Government has invested \$6.2 million to Miners Rest Primary School.

We want children growing up in Miners Rest to be part of a rich, vibrant and supportive community. Schools are more than buildings - they are the heart of their neighbourhoods. The new Miners Rest Primary School will be an opportunity to further shape and enhance the wider community.

The VSBA is in the process of acquiring land for Miners Rest Primary School in order to extend and upgrade the school. To help inform this process, we asked the local community what they want for the future of the school in terms of its design and facilities.



ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT

We engaged with students, teachers, parents and community members in Miners Rest on the design for the future of Miners Rest Primary School from 4 to 20 June 2018.

In particular, we wanted to know what learning and teaching spaces they would like to have in the school, what they like about the existing school and what could be made better. We wanted to understand what makes the Miners Rest community unique and the kinds of facilities that locals would like the school to offer the community outside school hours.

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

150 online survey responses

70% survey responses from parents

1575 individual comments received

15,916 people reached through social media

3 workshops with:

21 teachers

20 students

16 community members

WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY WANTS FOR THE NEW MINERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Here are the top five things we heard that Miners Rest locals, teachers and students want for the primary school.



Build a school that doubles as a community hub



We heard that Miners Rest wants facilities that **bring people together** and keep locals active. We heard that incorporating **shared facilities** would be a huge benefit for the local community. In particular, you told us that a large event space, such as a **multipurpose gym**, would be great for community events.



Create spacious outdoor areas for sports and play that can be used in all weather



We heard that your community values **physical activity** and that outdoor spaces for **sports** and **play** are important. We also heard that Miners Rest experiences extremes in temperature. As such, creating outdoor spaces that can be used **year-round** and are protected from the elements is important.



Plan for the future



The Miners Rest community is **growing**, and you want to make sure that the redevelopment of the school will accommodate the community's needs into the future. You told us that **space is important**, both indoors and outdoors.



Build state of the art, comfortable and functional spaces



Your community emphasised that you want the **heritage** and **history** of the school retained while still creating the **best possible facilities** for students to learn in. You want the school spaces to feel well-designed and up-to-date, with flexible and functional learning facilities. We also heard that spaces that are **warm in winter** and **cool in summer** are needed.



Don't change what is already great

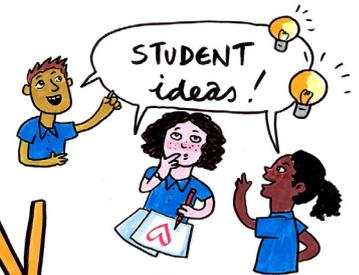


We heard that there are fantastic things happening at Miners Rest Primary. Your community loves that the **kindergarten** is co-located with the school, and that there is a great **out-of-hours care** program which you would love to see expanded with more space. Your community values the **kitchen garden** program and importantly, the **welcoming** and **friendly** school community.



WHAT WE HEARD

We asked students and teachers what they want in their new school, what's great about the school now and what could be improved. Their visions for the new school were captured by a graphic recorder, who illustrated what we heard to bring the ideas to life.



OUR VISION

for THE MINERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL of THE FUTURE



Students told us that they love their school and that the friendly and helpful school culture makes Miners Rest Primary a great place to learn. In particular, students think their teachers and other school staff are supportive and help them do their best.

When asked what could be better, students told us that outdoor spaces such as the oval, courts and play areas could be bigger, more modern and better equipped.





We also asked what the students' ideal school would look like and asked them to draw pictures of their dream school. They gave us some great ideas such as quiet areas, as well as ways to make the new school safe and secure.





OUR VISION

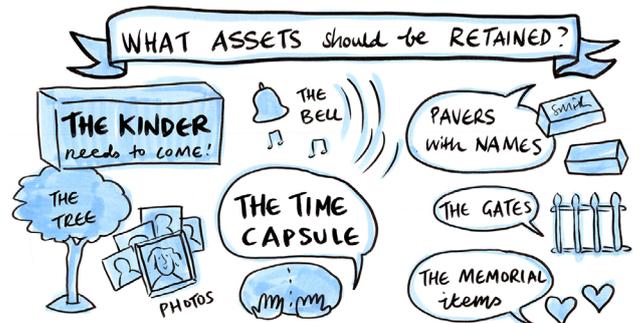
for THE MINERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL of the FUTURE

Teachers told us they hope the new school will be more spacious, functional and accessible for all abilities. We heard that teaching spaces need to incorporate better storage and that outdoor play areas should be sheltered and designed for year-round access.



We heard that the Miners Rest community would benefit from sharing school facilities such as a library, indoor multipurpose gym and outdoor play and sport spaces.

We asked teachers what features need to be retained in the new school and we heard that memorials, named pavers, the time capsule and heritage items such as the school bell and gates are important. We also heard that if the school moves to a new site, the kindergarten must come along with the school.





Teachers would love to see the Miners Rest area's rural feel and supportive community reflected in the school design through community-friendly spaces and outdoor areas.



Teachers want well-designed learning spaces with natural light and good heating and cooling. We also heard that more staff facilities and meeting spaces would be welcome additions.



IN DETAIL: YOUR IDEAS

This section presents the detailed findings for each of the key questions we asked the community, students and teachers:

- What are your hopes for the new school?
- What is unique about Miners Rest and how can we reflect this in the school?
- What should be retained in the new school?
- What school facilities should be shared with the community?

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE SCHOOL?

Create spaces that are state-of-the-art and functional and ensure the future is considered

Your community told us that learning and play spaces that are functional and well-designed are important for the school. You want indoor facilities that are warm in winter, cool in summer, fit-for-purpose and flexible for different class requirements. Plans should also ensure the school can cater for future growth in the Miners Rest area. We heard that you wanted to see better drop-off and pick-up facilities at the school.

“Walls that can be opened and closed and which provide good soundproofing are great”

Teacher workshop

“Square rooms with wet floor area and sinks to maximise usage of space/ functionality of classrooms”

Community workshop

“Pick up and drop off parking to be spacious, well thought out and cater for the number of parents in the future”

Online survey

Create a school that is a hub for the community, including meeting spaces and resources

We heard that the Miners Rest community wants more local community facilities, and that the school should be a hub for local sports, events, meetings and resources, such as a library and technology centre.

“Linkages with community - meeting facilities, sport and recreation”

Community workshop

“A full-size gymnasium that the local community could utilise also”

Online survey

“Make Miners Rest Primary school a community hub”

Community workshop

Build spacious play and sports facilities that consider the local climate

We heard that sports and play spaces are really important for both the students and wider community, and that these spaces need to be used year-round. This includes sheltered outdoor spaces, particularly walkways between classrooms, as well as modified ground coverings such as fake turf to prevent mud build-up and erosion.

"More outside play area including an oval. An undercover play area for raining days."

Online survey

"All weather areas- covered walkways, sheltered play space"

Teacher workshop

"Bigger playground with more equipment"

Student workshop

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT MINERS REST AND HOW CAN WE REFLECT THIS IN THE SCHOOL?

Retain heritage and keep the rural feel through large open spaces

Your community told us that you love Miners Rest's wide-open spaces, natural landscapes and agricultural heritage. We heard that the small-town feel, rural past and town heritage is really important to the local community. Suggestions for reflecting this in the school design included large outdoor spaces and native gardens.

"Country feel e.g. native planting gum trees, open spaces"

Teacher workshop

"I like the space and feeling of freedom"

Student workshop

"Country living, plenty of room to run around"

Online survey

A close-knit and supportive community that needs a community hub

We heard that Miners Rest is a friendly community that would love more local infrastructure, so you can participate in local events and activities. The Miners Rest community told us that the school can help bring locals closer through building facilities that act as a community hub, with resources and services for physical activity, events and learning.

"Community spirit - everyone looks after each other"

Community workshop

"We are a close-knit community and we generally have to travel outside of Miners Rest for our leisure activities"

Online survey

"Our community lacks infrastructure but would thrive if some were provided"

Teacher workshop

An active community that needs space and facilities for sports

Miners Rest is a place where physical activity and sports are valued, but we heard that there are limited options in town. You told us that you want more sporting options for students and locals, including an oval for football and soccer, as well as indoor and outdoor courts. Your community suggested that a multi-purpose indoor gym could double as a space for community events.

"Shared spaces - make oval, basketball and tennis courts accessible after hours"

Teacher workshop

"Sport and active lifestyle is important to the school / community"

Community workshop

"We are a physically active community and we need space to stay this way and facilities to promote physical activity"

Online survey

WHAT SHOULD BE RETAINED IN THE NEW SCHOOL?

Retain the heritage aspects of the school

We heard that your community loves the heritage aspects of the school, including the original school building, the front gates and the original school bell. You told us that the red brick features of the original building reflect the local area's look and feel, and the future of the school should consider this.

"The original school building... also the original school bell located outside the original building."

Online survey

"Red brick building and bell"

Community workshop

"Historic gates"

Teacher workshop

Ensure memorials and plaques are not lost, as well as valued outdoor space and vegetation

Your community told us that the memorials to past students and teachers must be preserved in the future Miners Rest Primary School. We also heard that outdoor spaces are important, like the kitchen garden, musical playground and open spaces, and that these should be incorporated in the new school.

"Outdoor spaces - the need for kids to be active"

Community workshop

"Millie's Chair & Belinda's tree"

Teacher workshop

"Musical playground, kitchen garden"

Online survey

Make sure the connection to the kindergarten is retained and that out-of-hours care is given a dedicated space

We heard that the connection between the kindergarten and the school is important to your community. You told us that the co-location means that kinder students can use the school's facilities, and it makes the transition from kinder to school easier. We also heard that outside school hours care (OSHC) is important and needs a dedicated and appropriately-sized space.

"OSHC area but separated"
Teacher workshop

"Keep playgroup, kinder and school together"
Community workshop

"Accessibility to kinder and transition program with kinder"
Online survey

WHAT SCHOOL FACILITIES SHOULD BE SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY?

Spaces for community sports activities and events

We heard that the Miners Rest community really wants more sporting options for locals, including an oval and court sports. You told us these places need to be weather-proof and usable all year round. Outdoor spaces should be connected by covered walkways to shelter students as they move between classes. Other suggestions included a large multipurpose indoor gym space that can double as a community hall facility for events.

"Separate basketball and netball courts."
Student workshop

"Multipurpose hall that could be connected with kitchen and stage and toilets (Graduation, 18ths, 21sts)"
Teacher workshop

"Oval - competition size, irrigated, weather specific to cope with extreme local climate"
Teacher workshop

A hub where the community can access resources and services such as early learning, day care.

Your community told us strongly that the school could act as a community hub, with services on offer such as childcare, early learning and maternal health care. We also heard that providing after hours learning opportunities for adults and teens would be of benefit to the area. Suggestions included a library and technology spaces to give Miners Rest greater access to resources.

"Day care with after school care"
Community workshop

"Evening adult education programs (a need to engage youth beyond the primary school years)"
Teacher workshop

"Maternal and child health centre - Community Hub"
Community workshop

Share outdoor spaces such as the gardens and kitchen facilities

We heard that the Miners Rest community really value the kitchen garden at the school. Your community told us that sharing a community garden space combined with a kitchen facility could open up a number of opportunities for community involvement, such as cooking good, healthy food for a canteen, as well as event catering.

“Kitchen garden - incorporating café- real coffee and function room”

Teacher workshop

“Outside play spaces”

Teacher workshop

“Vegetable garden / patch - expand existing kitchen garden program so community can use it as well”

Community workshop



You can contact us:
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www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au



For information in your language, please call the Victorian School Building Authority’s translation service on 03 9280 0712.

NEXT STEPS

The designs for the school’s expansion are informed by the feedback and suggestions you provided and are available now online. The Victorian School Building Authority is in the process of acquiring land for Miners Rest Primary School in order to extend and upgrade the school. We will keep the community informed as plans progress.

To stay up to date with the progress of the Miners Rest Primary School redevelopment, please visit

www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au

