

**Submission
No 7**

INQUIRY INTO PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: City of Canada Bay

Date Received: 24 January 2022

24 January 2022

The Hon. Mark Latham, MLC
Committee Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education
Upper House Committee
Parliament of New South Wales

[By online submission](#)

To Whom It May Concern

City of Canada Bay submission to the Inquiry into School Infrastructure in NSW

The City of Canada Bay Council (CCBC) welcomes the NSW Government's inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in NSW.

The attached submission summarises Council's feedback and provides comments to the Committee for consideration.

Council is particularly concerned about the immediate and ongoing student capacity issues at Concord High School. The case studies provided in Council's submission highlight the immediate need for a new high school in our area or for major redevelopment to accommodate and address the needs of the students at the school.

If you have any questions in relation to this submission, please contact

Yours sincerely,

John Clark
General Manager

City of Canada Bay Council submission to the Inquiry into School Infrastructure in NSW

Executive Summary

This submission has been prepared by the City of Canada Bay Council (Council) in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in NSW.

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry make specific reference to the planning for schools and increased enrolments in the City of Canada Bay local government area (LGA).

The submission comprises the following parts:

1. The City of Canada Bay LGA
2. Schools in City of Canada Bay LGA
3. Planning for new schools in the City of Canada Bay LGA
4. Investment in new or upgraded school infrastructure

Student enrolments in government schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA show there has been a continual increase in the number of students over the past 20 years. The number of school aged children in the City of Canada Bay LGA is forecast to grow by almost 30% between 2020 and 2036. Council supports the view of the community that there has not been adequate delivery of educational facilities to keep pace with the growing population in the City of Canada Bay LGA and surrounding LGAs¹.

Council's position is that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the student capacity of local primary and secondary schools with specific focus on localities experiencing significant development activity, including Rhodes, Concord, Five Dock/Canada Bay, North Strathfield and Strathfield. Both Rhodes and the Parramatta Road Corridor are State government-initiated renewal precincts, with expected population increases of 9,400 and 8,700 respectively over the next 20 years. The Metro West line (from the City to Westmead) will result in three new metro stations within the City of Canada Bay LGA. The urban revitalisation around each of these stations, together with the resultant 10-12 minute travel time east and west to the City and Parramatta-Westmead respectively, is anticipated to add further pressure on public schools in the City of Canada Bay LGA.

It is critical that SINSW develop medium term plans (minimum horizon of 10 years) to deliver new school places based on forecasted demand. Capital works planning with a minimum horizon of 10 years is required to ensure funding is available to deliver infrastructure based on identified need.

An audit of all existing schools is also recommended to inform an effective program of maintenance and renewal of existing public schools, which is essential to ensure that schools continue to meet the needs of existing and future students.

¹ From City of Canada Bay (2019), *Social Infrastructure (Community) Strategy and Action Plan*

1. The City of Canada Bay LGA

The City of Canada Bay LGA is located approximately 6 kilometres west of the Sydney CBD. It comprises a total land area of 19.82km² and is primarily located on the northern side of Parramatta Road, with the Parramatta River forming its northern boundary.

The City of Canada Bay LGA includes the suburbs of Abbotsford, Breakfast Point, Cabarita, Chiswick, Concord, Concord West, Drummoyne, Five Dock, Liberty Grove, Mortlake, North Strathfield, Rhodes, Rodd Point, Russell Lea, Strathfield and Wareemba. The LGA is bordered by the Councils of Burwood, Strathfield, and Inner West to the south and east, the City of Parramatta Council to the west, and Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils to the north.

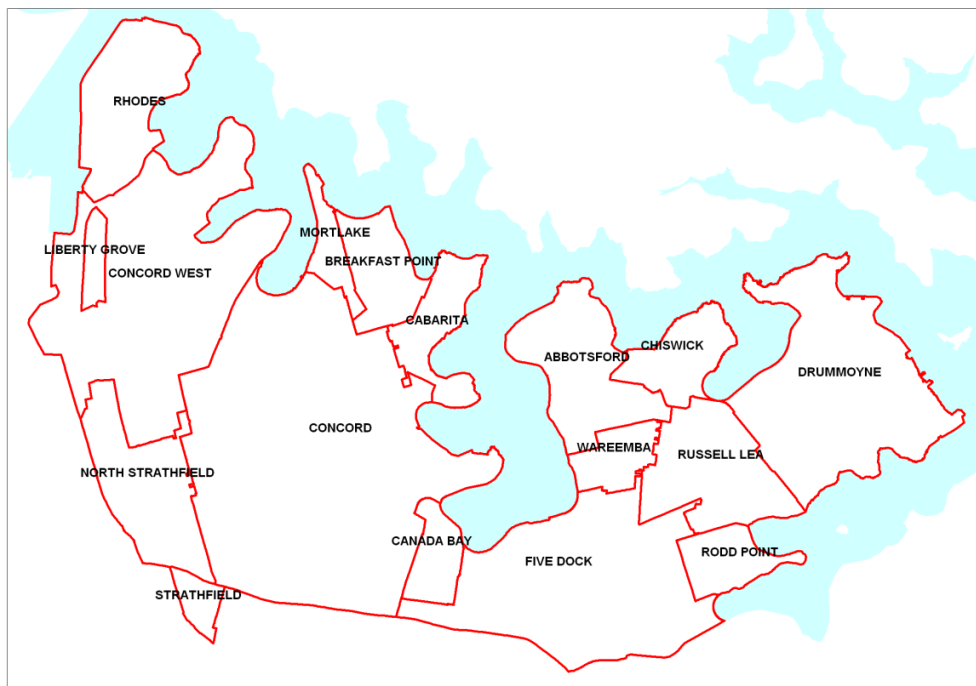


Figure 1: City of Canada Bay LGA

Education and school infrastructure are a critically important part of the City of Canada Bay LGA, educating future generations, and enabling opportunities for learning, social and cultural connections. The key areas of concern and expectations of the City of Canada Bay community² in relation to school infrastructure planning and delivery are:

- widespread concern that the provision of infrastructure and services is not keeping pace with population growth;
- maintenance and renewal of existing school infrastructure is critical, and needs increased focus;
- a desire for Council to work with the State Government to ensure infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner; and
- providing people with access to community facilities and spaces is important as it enables greater opportunities for social and cultural connections.

² From City of Canada Bay (2019), *Social Infrastructure (Community) Strategy and Action Plan*, pg.59

2. Schools in Canada Bay

There are 20 government schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA:

- 11 primary schools – all co-educational
- 7 secondary schools – 2 boys, 2 girls, 3 co-educational
- 2 schools for students with support needs such as intellectual or physical disabilities, providing education alongside other support services and accommodating for children with special needs

Of the 7 government secondary schools serving the City of Canada Bay LGA, only one of these (Concord High School) is located within the LGA itself.

There are 17 non-government schools located within the LGA and immediate surrounds:

- 9 primary schools (all Catholic Schools)
- 3 secondary schools – 1 girls, 2 co-educational
- 4 combined schools with K-12 classes – 2 girls, 2 co-educational
- 1 school for students with support needs

There are two new government schools planned to service the area: one primary school in Rhodes; and one high school in Wentworth Point (Sydney Olympic Park).

A full list of government and non-government schools is at Appendix A.

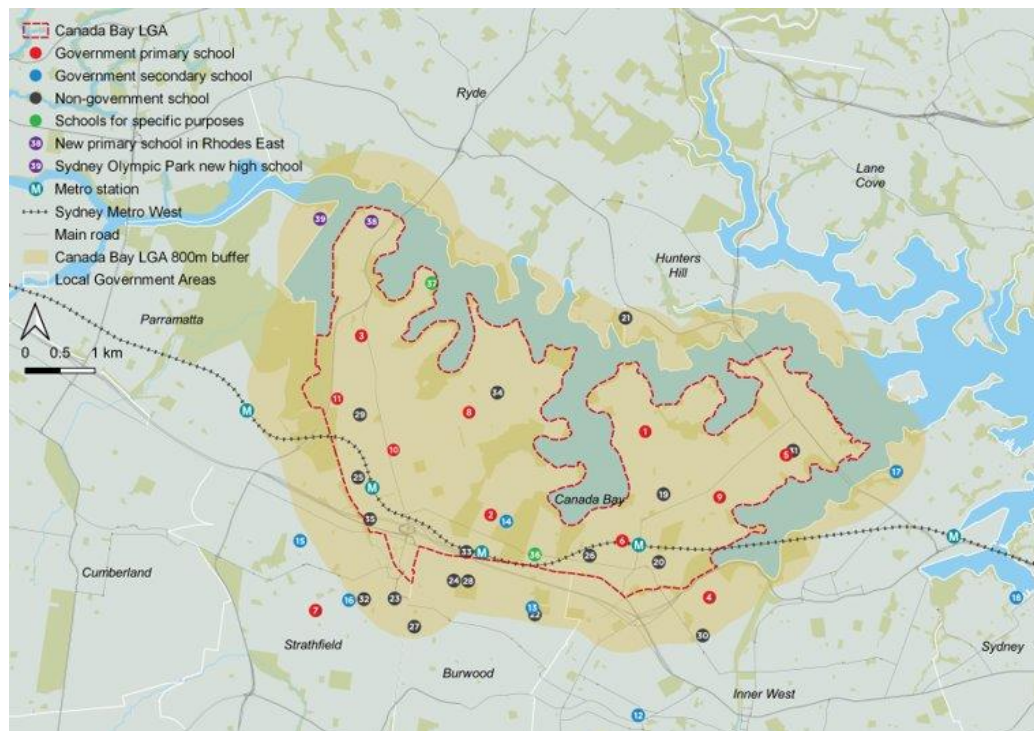


Figure 2: Local schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA and immediate area (Source: Astrolabe Group. Data from NSW Government)

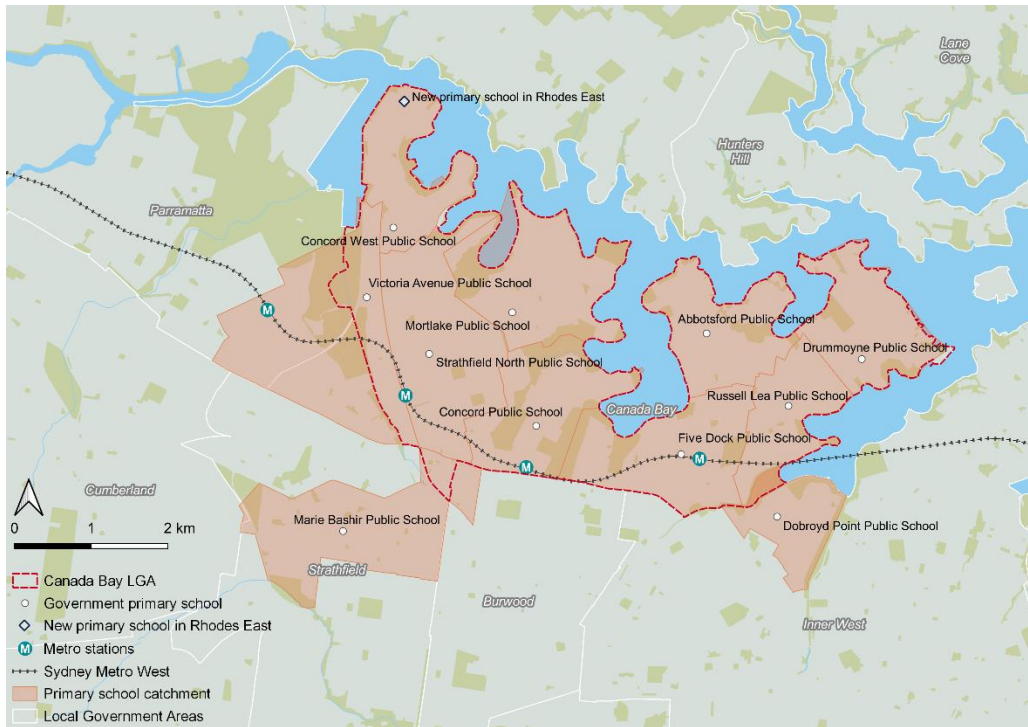


Figure 3: Government Primary Schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA and immediate area (Source: Astrolabe Group. Data from NSW Government)

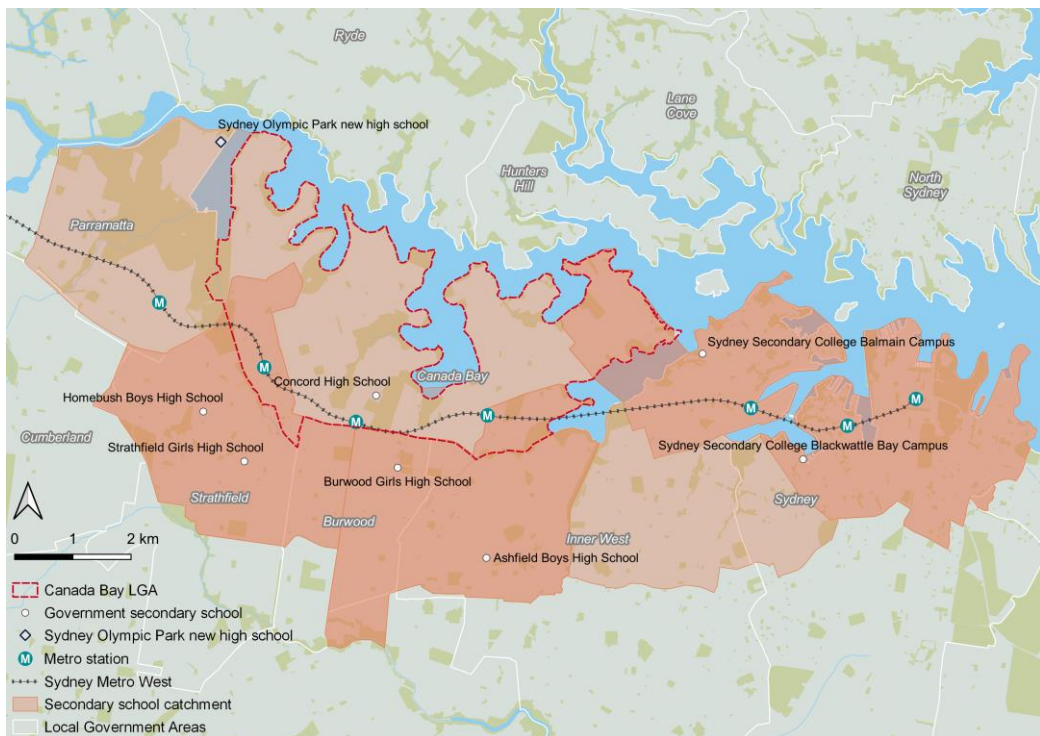


Figure 4: Government High Schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA and immediate surrounds (Source: Astrolabe Group. Data from NSW Government)

3. Planning for new schools in the City of Canada Bay LGA

This section responds to the following Inquiry terms of reference:

- (b) the adequacy of NSW government plans to deliver educational facilities for every NSW school student*
- (e) the adequacy of demographic planning for anticipated school enrolments*
- (g) specific planning for new schools and increased enrolments in Western Sydney, the Canada Bay local government area and on the far north coast*

Meeting future demand

Student enrolments in government schools servicing Canada Bay LGA show there has been a steady increase in enrolments, particularly in local primary schools, over the past 15 years.

In 2016, the population of the City of Canada Bay was 88,015 (2016 Census) and the population is expected to increase by an additional 32,000 people (36%) by 2036 (*Forecast.id*).

This continuing population growth will necessitate the delivery of additional student places in local schools. Significant urban renewal is occurring within Canada Bay, with the following major projects underway:

- planned urban transformation of the Parramatta Road Corridor;
- continuing redevelopment of the Rhodes Peninsula; and
- construction of new stations for Sydney Metro West at Five Dock, Concord Oval and North Strathfield.

Both the Metro West and Parramatta Road Corridor revitalisation projects are metropolitan or district scale projects, and the State government-led planned precinct at Rhodes East will result in one of the densest suburbs in Australia. These localities are in addition to local urban infill sites and strong growth in renewal of housing stock occurring across the LGA.

By 2036, the largest household type is forecast to be couples with children, noting that 20% of apartments in the City of Canada Bay LGA are already occupied by families with children. This trend is expected to continue due to the pressure of housing affordability.

Demographic Planning

The NSW Auditor General’s Report *Delivering school infrastructure – Performance Audit* identified that there is a significant shortfall of classrooms based on the current funded program in metropolitan Sydney. An additional 180,000 students will need to be accommodated in the NSW school system in the years to 2039. It projects that classroom requirements will not be met by 2023 and beyond.

The majority of the increased forecast enrolments are expected in already established areas of metropolitan Sydney, rather than new land release areas or in regional and rural NSW.

The Auditor General’s Report identified that SINSW uses common planning assumptions from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to project the number of students in school catchments, local government areas and regions. The population forecasts prepared by the DPIE for the City of Canada Bay LGA are generally consistent with the *Forecast.id* Community population forecasts used by Council.

Whilst forecast population growth is known, the demographic data does not appear to be complemented by a medium-term plan to deliver new public school places for the City of Canada Bay LGA. Planning for local public school places needs to be investigated and tested against demographic forecasts, both at the LGA level and the individual suburb level, as forecast population growth is expected to vary significantly across different suburbs within the City of Canada bay LGA.

Need to accommodate more student places in local schools

In Canada Bay, historic population growth shows a trend of a steady increase in school-aged children over the past 20 years.

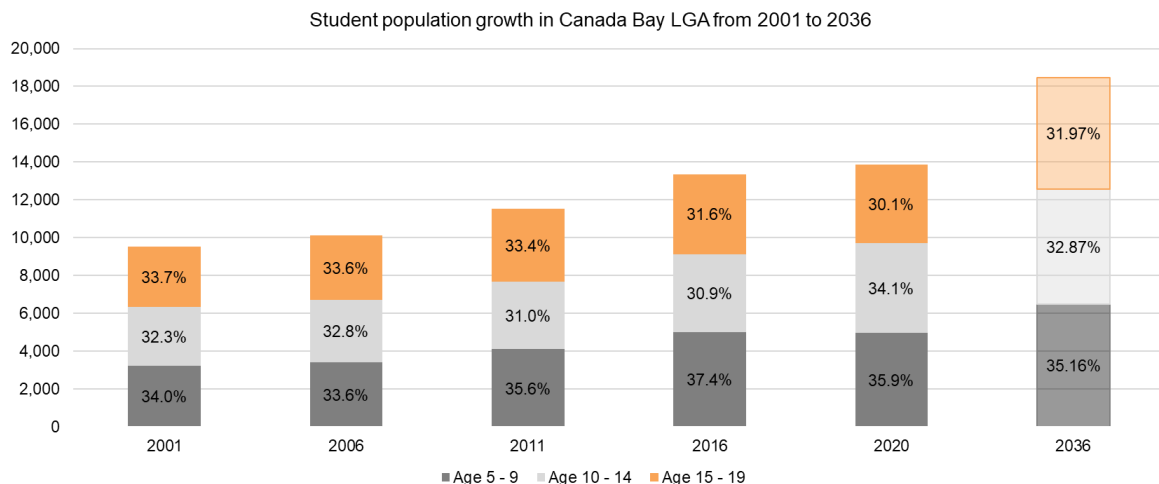


Figure 5: Student population growth in Canada Bay LGA from 2001 to 2036 (Source: Astrolabe Group, Data from ABS Census, ABS Estimated Residential Population, DPIE 2019 population projections).

There has also been a comparable increase in student enrolments in government schools, particularly for local primary schools as shown in the following graph (Figure 6).

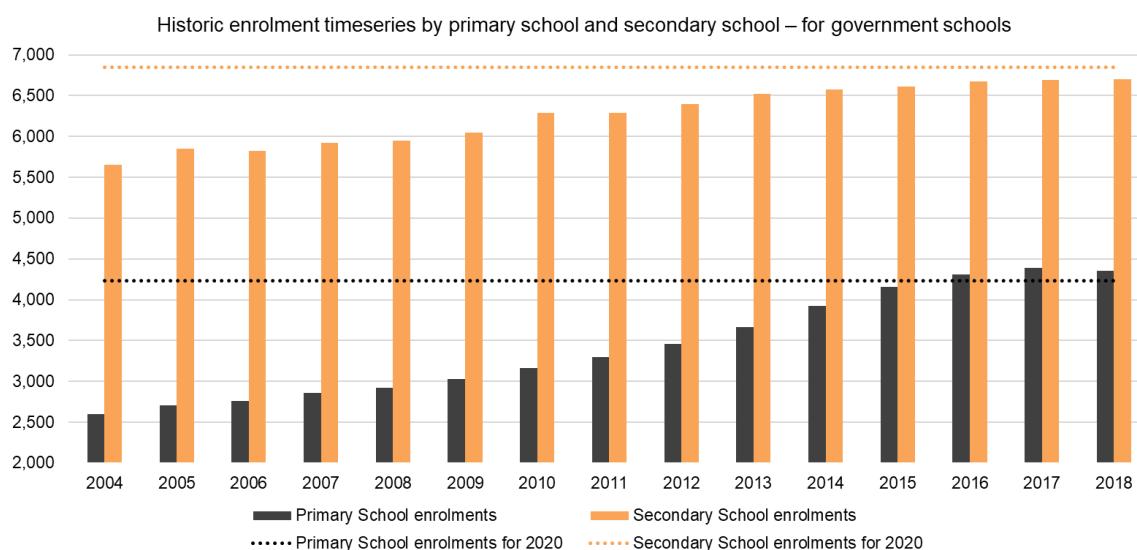


Figure 6: Historic enrolment timeseries by government primary school and secondary schools (Source: Astrolabe Group. Data from ACARA Data Access Program, School Profile 2020)

In 2021, Wentworth Point Public had a classroom usage rate of 116.7%, Concord Public School a rate of 106.7%, and Concord High School a rate of 103.3%³. These utilisation rates are defined as the percentage of teaching spaces occupied by a class as a proportion of the total teaching spaces on site (permanent and demountable classrooms are included). A rate greater than 100% indicates overuse, and confirms that there are more students than space. Urgent upgrades or plans for new schools are already evident in these localities.

As outlined earlier, the City of Canada Bay LGA is projected to experience continuing population growth that will necessitate the need to accommodate more student places in local schools.

Council’s *Social Infrastructure (Community) Strategy and Action Plan* provides analysis on projected enrolment projections for primary and secondary government schools to 2036. It shows that Victoria Avenue Public School in Concord West and Russell Lea Public School in Russell Lea are forecast to receive student enrolments that significantly exceed the current capacity of these schools. Concord High School, the only secondary school located within the City of Canada Bay LGA, is projected to receive a 53% increase in student enrolments by 2031 (Table 1).

³ Sydney Morning Herald, *Revealed: The Sydney schools running out of space*, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/revealed-the-sydney-schools-running-out-of-space-20211221-p59jct.html>

Table 1: Projected enrolments 2031 Canada Bay public schools

SCHOOL	2017 ENROLMENTS	PROJECTED 2031 ENROLMENTS	SCHOOL SITE AREA (M ²)
Abbotsford PS	639	600 (decrease 6%)	25,086
Concord HS	1137	1740 (increase 53%)	33,765
Concord PS	280	305 (increase 9%)	11,643
Concord West PS	382	485 (increase 27%)	13,662
Drummoyne PS	687	555 (decrease 19%)	9,291
Five Dock PS	412	580 (increase 41%)	17,860
Mortlake PS	380	505 (increase 33%)	15,711
Russell Lea PS	177	400 (increase 160%)	11,970
Strathfield North PS	599	630 (increase 5%)	15,526
Victoria Ave PS	238	665 (increase 179%)	13,554

Source: City of Canada Bay (2019), *Social Infrastructure (Community) Strategy and Action Plan*

Based on current *Forecast.id* data, catchments with the most need for primary student places (aged 5 to 11) within the City of Canada Bay LGA include:⁴

- Rhodes - which will have 960 children by 2031, an increase of 172% from 2016;
- North Strathfield-Strathfield - which will have 680 children by 2031, an increase of 72% from 2016; and
- Mortlake-Breakfast Point, which will have 690 children by 2031, an increase of 41% from 2016.

Catchments with the most need for secondary school places (aged 12 to 17 years) within the City of Canada Bay LGA include:⁵

- Rhodes which will have 760 young people by 2031, an increase of 257% from 2016, equating to the need for approximately 360 government high school places;
- North Strathfield – Strathfield, which will have 600 young people by 2031, an increase of 92% from 2016, equating to the need for approximately 282 government high school places; and
- Five Dock – Canada Bay, Mortlake Breakfast Point, and Russell Lea – Rodd Point which will have a combined total of 1,807 young people by 2031, an increase of up to 50% from 2016, equating to the need for approximately 850 government high school places.

It is important to consider the City of Canada Bay LGA's projected growth in primary and secondary school age students in the context of the adjacent suburbs of Newington, Sydney Olympic Park (including the Carter Street precinct), and Wentworth Point, all of which fall

⁴ *Forecast.id* data

⁵ *ibid*

within the current Concord High School catchment and, all of which, except for Newington, are forecast to experience significant growth in primary and secondary age students between 2016 and 2031. Part of Sydney Olympic Park also falls within the Victoria Road Primary School catchment (Figure 7 and 8). The quantum of population growth forecast for the City of Canada Bay public school catchments (Figure 7) means that the two proposed new public schools (primary school at Rhodes and high school at Wentworth Point) will not close or reduce the current gap in local public school places.

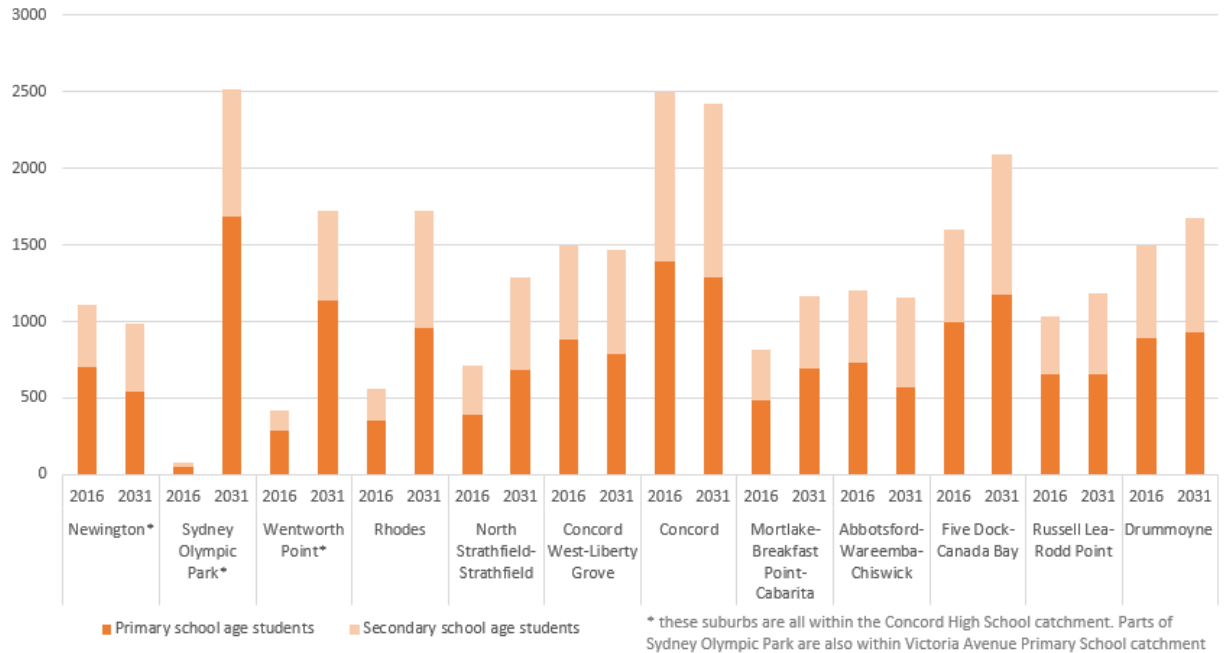


Figure 7: Primary and Secondary age students – 2016 to 2031, City of Canada Bay and Sydney Olympic Park peninsula (Source: Forecast.id)

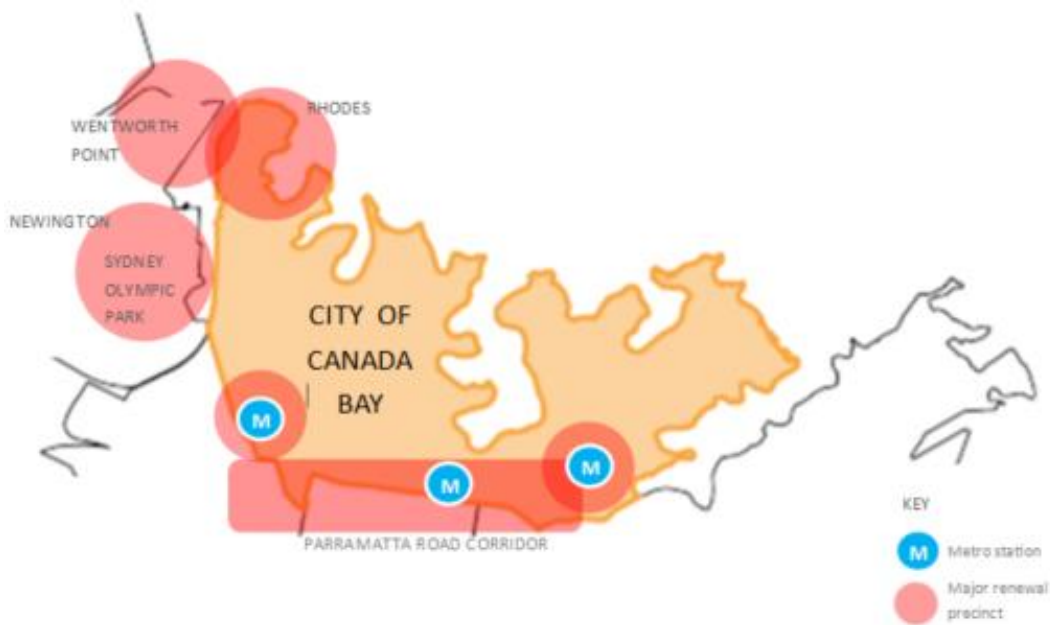


Figure 8: Major renewal precincts - City of Canada Bay and surrounds

It is critical that school infrastructure (both investment in new schools and maintenance/renewal of existing schools) be planned now and sequenced according to growth, so that the deficit in public school places does not continue grow. Table 1 illustrates significant issue of capacity at Concord High School, with a 53% increase in enrolments projected for 2031. However, the pressure for public high school places is immediate, with Concord High School experiencing a 9% increase in enrolments between 2017 and 2020.⁶ Whilst the new Sydney Olympic Park High School at Wentworth Point is expected to relieve some of this pressure from Concord High School, Stage 1 of Sydney Olympic Park High School is not anticipated to open until 2024, resulting sustained issues of capacity for Concord High School in the immediate term.

Renewal and/or expansion of existing school infrastructure will continue to be important in the short-medium term across public schools which serve the City of Canada Bay LGA. It is important that renewal of public school infrastructure focus on more efficient use of existing spaces, ensuring that playgrounds and school sports fields are maintained to ensure provision of quality public school campuses for students, and ideally expanded commensurate with any increase in student population. This is particularly important given the limited land resources available in the City of Canada Bay LGA context. The failure to provide school infrastructure in line with population growth can result in inadequate facilities in the short and long term, including classrooms, bathroom facilities, hall space, as seen at Concord High School (see Case Study on page 19).

Accessibility

When planning for the location of schools, it is important to consider the ability and ease of students to travel to school based on walking distances and the public transport network.

With only one government public high school located within Canada Bay, many students need to travel to access high schools within neighbouring LGAs. Whilst students who reside in the Canada Bay LGA may be located within catchments for secondary schools outside the LGA, these catchments also need to service communities in the neighbouring Inner West, Burwood and Strathfield LGAs. The lack of available local school options limits choices for local students.

In circumstances where surrounding suburbs are also experiencing rapid population growth (Burwood, Homebush, Sydney Olympic Park, Strathfield and Wentworth Point), schools in these localities will also see increasing enrolments to meet the demand for student places that are generated in those locations. In this context, it becomes increasingly important that there are sufficient government high school places locally to service the needs of students close to where they live.

⁶ Concord High School Annual Report 2020

Educational facilities for every NSW Student

As previously noted, Concord High School is the only public high school within the City of Canada Bay LGA.

Approximately 41% of current enrolments in government secondary schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA are for co-educational schools (2,820 enrolments out of a total of 6,850 enrolments across all secondary schools within Canada Bay). There are more girls-only non-government schools servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA than boys-only non-government schools. This may have had an impact on the proportional enrolment of boys and girls in the local co-education high schools such as Concord High School.

The 2020 student enrolments for Concord High School represent a ratio of 10 boys to 6 girls. The ratio of girls at Concord High is significantly lower than the Eastern City District ratio of 10 boys to 8 girls and the Greater Sydney ratio of 10 boys to 9 girls. This imbalance is a likely outcome of the lack of available public high schools in the LGA, supplemented by a higher proportion of non-government girls-only high schools within the service area.

Such marked gender imbalances in a co-educational school are not desirable, and can undermine the benefits of co-educational settings. It is important that local public schools, such as Concord High School, provide a genuine option for the community, particularly give the cost associated with non-government school alternatives. It is also important that investment in local public schools, particularly high schools, provides quality school facilities.

Table 2: *Girl vs boy student enrolments in public high schools serving City of Canada Bay LGA*

Public High Schools servicing Canada Bay	Total enrolments (2020)	Girl student enrolments (2020)	Boy student enrolments (2020)
Ashfield Boys High School	737	0	737
Burwood Girls High School	1,149	1,149	0
Concord High School	1,262	466	796
Homebush Boys High School	1,075	0	1,075
Strathfield Girls High School	1,069	1,069	0
Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus	754	297	457
Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus	804	310	494
Total	6,850	3,291	3,559

(Source: Astrolabe Group. Data from ACARA Data Access Program, School Profile 2020)

Delays in the planning and delivery of Government school infrastructure results in an over-reliance on the establishment of non-Government schools to fill the gap. In the City of Canada Bay LGA, two non-Government primary schools have opened in the past ten years, being Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Primary School in North Strathfield, and St Patricks Catholic

Primary School in Mortlake. SINSW should be cognisant of the impacts on affordability and the higher cost of school education when relying on non-Government schools to meet the demand for student places. Figure 9 demonstrates the high reliance on non-Government school places servicing the City of Canada Bay LGA.

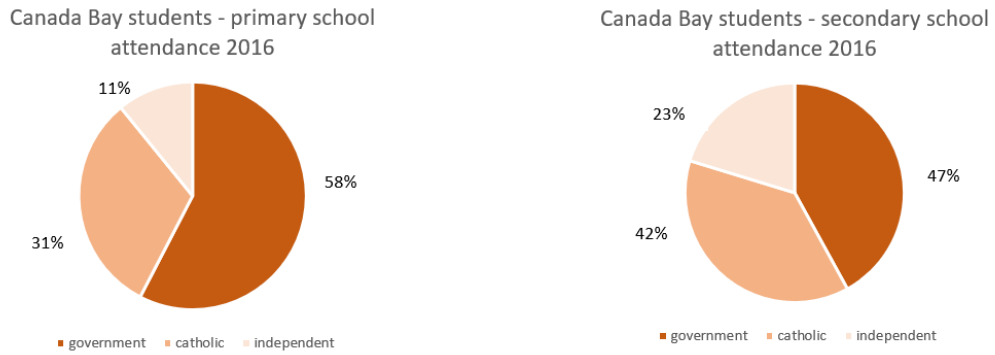


Figure 9: Total enrolments by Government and non-Government primary and secondary schools, 2016 (Source: Profile Id)

Recommendations

- Consider and note that significant growth in apartment living in the City of Canada Bay LGA is forecast; with 20% of apartments already occupied by families with children. In the City of Canada Bay LGA by 2036, the largest household type is forecast to be couples with children. This will necessitate the delivery of additional student places in local schools, in particular within renewal precincts where high numbers of households with children are anticipated to reside. It is critical that planning for school infrastructure (both new and renewal) is based on assumptions that high and medium density developments (apartments) will include school-aged students as part of the population living in these areas.
- That SINSW review the student capacity of local primary schools with the most need in the following suburbs/areas (noting that the new public primary school at Rhodes is unlikely to accommodate growth in the Mortlake-Breakfast Point area):
 - Rhodes which will have 960 children by 2031 (forecast increase of 172% primary school age students by 2031 from 2016), equating to the need for approximately 560 student places;
 - North Strathfield-Strathfield which will have 680 children by 2031 (forecast increase of 72% primary school age students by 2031 from 2016), equating to the need for approximately 400 student places; and
 - Mortlake-Breakfast Point which will have 690 children by 2031 (forecast increase of 41% primary school age students by 2031 from 2016), equating to the need for approximately 400 student places.
- That SINSW note the immediate issues at Concord High School arising from significant over capacity of the existing facilities and investigate the opportunity for a second public high school within the Canada Bay LGA.

Based on available data, catchments with the most immediate need for secondary school places (aged 12-17 years) within the Canada Bay LGA include Rhodes, North Strathfield/Strathfield, Five Dock/Canada Bay, Mortlake/Breakfast Point, Russell Lea/Rodd Point, which will have a combined total of 3,167 young people by 2031.

This equates to the need for approximately 1,492 new government high school places (based on historical attendance at public schools).

- That when planning for new public high school investment, SINSW gives consideration to:
 - planned population growth of 36% in Canada Bay LGA and surrounding suburbs;
 - the convenient access to public high schools for boys; and
 - the spatial distribution of existing and planned schools.

- That SINSW develop medium term plans (minimum horizon of 10 years) to deliver new school places based on forecast demand, noting that:
 - the planned new public schools at Rhodes (primary school) and Wentworth Point (high school) will not result in a decrease in the current gap between students and public school places, due to the significant population growth forecast within these catchments to 2031;
 - commitment to the delivery of Stage 2 of the new high school at Wentworth Point is critical, and will result in maintaining the current gap in public school places in the medium term (rather than decreasing it)
- That SINSW undertakes planning for school needs and infrastructure delivery concurrently with state led planning for renewal precincts/precinct plans, noting that Council is happy to work collaboratively with SINSW, particularly in terms of sharing data and strategic planning.
- That planning for land along the Parramatta Road Corridor and near the future Metro West stations be complemented by the planning for schools to enable a strategic business case for funding.

4. Investment in new or upgraded School Infrastructure

This section responds to the following Inquiry terms of reference:

- c) *the adequacy of investment in new or upgraded infrastructure at existing NSW public schools and in new school projects, including*
- i. *planning*
 - ii. *design*
 - iii. *maintenance, and*
 - iv. *budgeting and expenditure of new projects*

Planning

Council supports the NSW Auditor General’s recommendation of detailing priorities with a ten-year timeframe, with ten-year capital planning to create more certainty in the ability of public schools to meet demands arising from forecast population growth. This would ensure funding can be prioritised to projects that best meet demand and encourage longer term planning to align with anticipated student enrolments.

Council values collaboration with adjoining councils and State government agencies to ensure that existing infrastructure is used efficiently and to ensure that the timing and delivery of new infrastructure is aligned with population growth.

The identification of regional and local infrastructure needs during the planning process can enable the identification of opportunities and maximise the value to government in the delivery of infrastructure and facilities. For example, the identification of land for new or expanded school sites is best addressed during the planning process. A successful example is the development of Rhodes East, which includes a planned primary school upfront as part of the precinct planning stage.

Case study – Place planning for Rhodes

Work to commence planning for a new primary school in Rhodes East is a good example where the need for a new school was identified early in the planning process, before development occurs.

State agencies (School Infrastructure NSW, NSW DPIE and others) and Canada Bay Council have been working together to develop the Rhodes Place Strategy⁷. A component of the

⁷ *Rhodes Place Strategy*, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Priority-Growth-Areas-and-Precincts/Rhodes>

strategy was to identify a potential site for a new primary school to support growth and change in the precinct.

This coordinated approach by State Government to place-based planning ensures that infrastructure needs and planning is coordinated alongside planning for development and growth and enable infrastructure to occur concurrently with population growth.

The early identification of a school by DPIE and SINSW has provided significant justification to enable the preparation of a strategic business case to NSW Treasury for the funding of this infrastructure.

Design

In supporting communities, SINSW aims to make schools the centre of local communities through initiatives designed to bring people together and create opportunities for learning, work and play. This includes programs to share space with the community and to integrate shared facilities.

Transparency and engagement during planning and development of new school infrastructure as well as upgrading existing infrastructure with Council could assist and support SINSW's objective of school infrastructure supporting local communities.

Council is particularly supportive of new schools being able to accommodate ancillary supporting infrastructure, such as out of school hours care, and childcare. The demand for these facilities is generated by primary school communities, and should be a mandatory consideration when new schools are planned and designed. The Victoria Avenue education precinct at Concord West is an example of a relatively new primary school which was planned and designed in an integrated manner from the outset alongside a childcare and an occasional care facility, with good pedestrian and cycle access bringing significant benefits for the local community using these facilities.

Maintenance

Council echoes the community's concern in relation to the importance of school infrastructure being maintained and where necessary, upgraded, in line with projected population growth⁸.

Overcrowding puts pressure on infrastructure and maintenance. Council has been made aware of the urgent need to review school infrastructure at Concord High School. Currently operating with a classroom usage rate of 103.3% in 2021⁹, Concord High School has approximately 1,300 students attending a school designed to accommodate 900 students,¹⁰

⁸ From City of Canada Bay (2019), *Social Infrastructure (Community) Strategy and Action Plan*

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald, *Revealed: The Sydney schools running out of space*,

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/revealed-the-sydney-schools-running-out-of-space-20211221-p59jct.html>

¹⁰ Concord High School Parents and Citizens Association, September 2021, *Three worrying issues, unpublished document*.

with a 53% increase in projected student enrolments by 2031. In addition, the school accommodates 17 demountable classrooms and demountable toilets on site, raising significant concerns about overcrowding, and underfunding for maintenance and renewal of school facilities. A plan to address these issues is urgently needed in the immediate to short term.

Case Study: Concord High School

A school experiencing both over-capacity of infrastructure and the need for maintenance and renewal

In September 2021, the Parents and Citizen Association of Concord High School (P&C) established a Building sub-committee¹¹. This subcommittee was established in response to the school operating overcapacity in a community that was continuing to see high levels of development and growth.

The P&C released a statement outlining three key issues of concern:

1. Alarming overcrowding at Concord High School
2. The troubling absence of a school Masterplan
3. Destructive underfunding at Concord High School

A primary focus of the P&C is to create a plan for a school environment that everyone can be proud of.

In October 2021, Member for Drummoyne, John Sidoti MP, raised concerns in relation to the capacity and amenities of Concord High School in Parliament¹²:

“Three main areas of concern to the school community that must be addressed are: student numbers, school amenities and funding. Referring to school numbers, the school must be included in transparent communication with the department. That is an important step in order to understand and ascertain projected enrolments once the new high school at Wentworth Point, Sydney Olympic Park, opens.

That information is vital for robust and productive planning to take place for the future needs of the population. There are plans for increased development in years to come and the school must be in a position where it is supported in absorbing population growth. Referring to school amenities, there needs to be a holistic vision for the future of the school to give the community certainty about planned upgrades and an overall infrastructure pipeline.

Jago C, September 2021, *Item 20 Notice of Motion – CR Jago – High School Places in Canada Bay*, [ECM 7006218 v13 Final Council Meeting Agenda - 28/9/21 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

¹¹ <https://www.concordhspandc.com.au/our-building-subcommittee-building-a-school-we-can-all-be-proud-of/>

¹² John Sidoti, Member for Drummoyne, Legislative Assembly Hansard 14/10/2021, <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/HANSARD-1323879322-119259/link/73>

Currently there are around 14 demountable classrooms at the school, with more projected. Demountable classrooms must only be a temporary solution, not a 20-year thing. Immediate arrangements must be put in place for better quality bathroom facilities rather than demountable bathrooms, outdoor seating and sporting facilities, a new school hall to accommodate all students and a vision for the aging buildings that require upgrading or, at the very least, maintenance.”

In considering the need for current and future demand of public school places, City of Canada Bay Councillor, Charles Jago has stated in a notice of motion on 28 September 2021:

“There are anecdotal reports of large unmet demand in this area, including a substantial number of would-be attendees of Concord High going to local Catholic high schools, because they have no other local alternative.”

Recommendations

- Urgently review the capacity of Concord High School and determine the need for a new public high school in the City of Canada Bay LGA.
- Undertake an audit of the maintenance, upgrade and renewal needs for existing public schools and prepare a long-term master plan for schools that will experience an increase in student places, in particular at Concord High School.
- Ensure school facilities and infrastructure are seen as assets and are considered as part of the planning and redevelopment of a precinct. This will enable the funding and delivery of new schools to be streamlined in localities undergoing significant change.
- Planning for renewal of school facilities, particularly when associated with increasing student places should focus on efficient use of space, to ensure that quality playground and other outdoor open space areas are maintained and/or expanded commensurate with any increases in future student population.
- Ensure that supporting and related infrastructure, such as the need for out of school hours care is considered as part of the design and planning for all new and upgraded schools.
- Explore partnership between local and state government to maximise opportunities for shared use of school facilities.

--- Ends ----

Appendix A

Non-Government Schools servicing Canada Bay LGA

School Name	School gender	School Sector	School affiliation	School Type	Governing Body	Year Range	ICSEA	Teaching Staff	Full Time Equivalent Teaching Staff	Total Enrolments	Girls Enrolments	Boys Enrolments	Full Time Equivalent Enrolments	Indigenous Enrolments (%)	Language Background Other Than English - Yes (%)
All Hallows Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1109	34	25.3	470	260	210	470	0	52
Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Secondary	Catholic Schools NSW	11-12	1025	36	28.5	150	62	88	149.5	3	64
Domremy Catholic College	Female	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Secondary	Catholic Schools NSW	7-12	1078	52	46.4	604	604	0	604	1	51
Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1095	17	12.8	153	82	71	153	1	54
Meriden School	Female	Independent	Anglican	Combined	Association of Independent Schools of NSW	K-12	1176	145	133.8	1353	1353	0	1353	0	73
MLC School	Female	Independent	Uniting Church	Combined	Association of Independent Schools of NSW	K-12	1176	152	136.1	1226	1226	0	1225	1	36
St Ambrose Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1139	24	20	408	201	207	408	1	43
St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1084	18	13.9	209	117	92	209	2	61
St Mark's Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1140	23	18.7	311	164	147	311	0	47
St Martha's Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1123	20	15.9	320	171	149	320	0	85
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1103	29	22.2	420	217	203	420	1	61
Rosebank College	Co-ed	Independent	Catholic (Roman)	Secondary	Catholic Schools NSW	7-12	1103	110	102.6	1392	697	695	1392	1	45
The McDonald College	Co-ed	Independent	Non-Denominational	Combined	Association of Independent Schools of NSW	3-12	1097	35	27.2	292	177	115	292	1	23
Giant Steps Sydney	Co-ed	Independent	Non-Denominational	Special	Association of Independent Schools of NSW	U	1109	21	19.2	90	28	62	90	2	14
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-6	1137	22	17.5	322	182	140	322	0	66
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	Co-ed	Catholic	Catholic (Roman)	Primary	Catholic Schools NSW	K-5	1119	16	13.6	227	102	125	227	1	35
Santa Sabina College	Co-ed	Independent	Catholic (Roman)	Combined	Catholic Schools NSW	K-12	1151	129	120.1	1188	1059	129	1188	0	48

Government Schools servicing Canada Bay LGA

School Name	School gender	School Type	School opening date	Years	Selective school	Opportunity class	Year Range	ICSEA	Teaching Staff	Full Time Equivalent Teaching Staff	Total Enrolments	Girls Enrolments	Boys Enrolments	Full Time Equivalent Enrolments	Indigenous Enrolments (%)	Language Background Other Than English - Yes (%)
Abbotsford Public School	Coed	Primary	1/04/1925	96	Not Selective	N	K-6	1109	30	29.8	531	264	267	531	1	47
Ashfield Boys High School	Boys	Secondary	1/01/1946	75	Not Selective	N	7-12	1045	48	54.9	737	0	737	737	1	74
Burwood Girls High School	Girls	Secondary	1/01/1929	92	Not Selective	N	7-12	1093	76	80.2	1149	1149	0	1145.7	1	66
Concord High School	Coed	Secondary	1/01/1980	41	Not Selective	N	7-12	1067	81	86.5	1262	466	796	1262	2	71
Concord Public School	Coed	Primary	1/01/1880	141	Not Selective	N	K-6	1076	16	20.8	302	151	151	302	2	65
Concord West Public School	Coed	Primary	1/11/1929	92	Not Selective	N	K-6	1109	21	22.3	351	168	183	351	0	82
Dobroyd Point Public School	Coed	Primary	1/02/1937	84	Not Selective	N	K-6	1154	13	13.3	211	104	107	211	1	30
Drummoyne Public School	Coed	Primary	1/04/1886	135	Not Selective	N	K-6	1133	32	35.6	619	319	300	619	0	40
Five Dock Public School	Coed	Primary	1/06/1861	160	Not Selective	N	P-6	1078	24	26.2	371	184	187	371	3	41
Homebush Boys High School	Boys	Secondary	1/05/1936	85	Not Selective	N	7-12	1045	67	74.3	1075	0	1075	1075	0	91
Lucas Gardens School	Coed	Special	1/05/1985	36	Not Selective	N	U	1072	10	11.4	54	25	29	54	0	63
Marie Badier Public School	Coed	Primary	28/01/2014	7	Not Selective	N	K-6	1099	20	25.6	401	225	176	401	0	89
Mortlake Public School	Coed	Primary	1/06/1887	134	Not Selective	N	K-6	1091	18	22	371	179	192	371	1	54
Rivendell School	Coed	Special	1/03/1972	49	Not Selective	N	U	1039	19	22.5	51	32	19	51	2	18
Russell Lea Public School	Coed	Primary	1/05/1931	90	Not Selective	N	K-6	1133	14	16.8	308	172	136	308	1	32
Strathfield Girls High School	Girls	Secondary	1/01/1953	68	Not Selective	N	7-12	1073	64	73.4	1069	1069	0	1068.4	0	91
Strathfield North Public School	Coed	Primary	1/01/1915	106	Not Selective	N	K-6	1118	32	36.2	489	221	268	489	1	71
Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus	Coed	Secondary	1/01/1974	47	Partially Selective	N	7-10	1112	48	63.3	754	297	457	754	3	44
Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus	Coed	Secondary	1/01/1979	42	Partially Selective	N	11-12	1081	62	65.5	804	310	494	803	2	44
Victoria Avenue Public School	Coed	Primary	27/01/2015	6	Not Selective	N	K-6	1081	20	21.1	278	125	153	278	1	73