


NBCS 
NORTHERN BEACHES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Love Learning

Building our Vision

OUR CAMPUS, PAST
PRESENT AND FUTURE





“INFRASTRUCTURE
THAT INSPIRES
AND INVIGORATES
LEARNING.”

NBCS Strategic Plan
2026-2028

Infrastructure that inspires


NORTHERN BEACHES
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
HAS A UNIQUE CAMPUS
SET IN A REMARKABLE
LOCATION

Nestled in our bushland setting, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and the Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club, we are grateful for our spectacular contemporary architecture and wonderful facilities.

We are the beneficiaries of the dedication, vision and hard work of those who have come before us, and with each addition or enhancement to our facilities, we continue to uphold that vision to inspire our students to love learning.

This publication provides an overview of the thinking, design and features of our campus, along with the foundation upon which we will continue to build.

Tim Watson
Principal



The 'Manhattan'
Senior Study Centre

THE BARCELONA PROJECT'S PRIZE-WINNING DESIGN FEATURES THE SPECTACULAR 3000SQM 'LIVING' CANOPY, WHICH GENERATES ENERGY, HARVESTS RAINWATER AND COOLS THE SPACES BELOW.

From humble beginnings

LET'S BUILD A SCHOOL

NBCS came into being because of a simple conversation in 1980 at Northern Beaches Christian Centre. "Let's build an exceptional Christian school on the Northern Beaches."

With humble beginnings, the founders had to think creatively. The first students were housed in a rented church hall in Mona Vale. By 1982, numbers had doubled and the hall was no longer available, prompting the school to relocate to rented land near the current Terrey Hills campus. There, a toilet block was constructed and demountable classrooms were established to accommodate the growing community.

By the start of 1984, enrolments had surpassed 100 students and the vision for a permanent home was prayerfully realised.

In 1986, NBCS moved to its permanent home, the 4.5-hectare site on Echunga Road. Its ranch-style buildings were resourced by donations and labour from school and church families and members, who were motivated by a shared vision and a strong sense of community.

Enrolments grew steadily and by 1999, a new blueprint set a vision for the future. NBCS began transforming its simple buildings into technology-rich, architecturally designed spaces that grew community and enhanced learning.

A POWERFUL QUESTION

During a global trip visiting schools in the late 1990s, then NBCS Principal, Stephen Harris, waited to catch a plane in Barcelona airport. He found himself inspired by the buzz of activity and conversation taking place underneath a vast, acoustically-engineered canopy.

"What if a school was built using the same notion?" he thought. "What if there was a new space operating as the central heart, connecting all elements of the community?"

Out of his question grew the 'Barcelona Project', envisioning and creating a stunning, sustainable, open space that now serves as the community 'heart' of the school.



View of the 'City', the central community precinct of the Barcelona Project.

“OUR GOAL WAS TO REINVENT THE NOTION OF WHAT A SCHOOL BUILDING SHOULD BE. WE’VE CREATED AN ARCHITECTURE OF SPACES – NOT JUST BUILDINGS – WHICH DEFINE THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL CAMPUS AND LEAD THE WAY FOR LEARNING IN AUSTRALIA AND WORLDWIDE.”

Greg Barnett
WMK Architecture

The ‘City’ is the central congregational space in the school

Architectural awards

WMK Architecture won several high-profile awards for their work designing the central campus – featuring the magnificent ‘Manhattan’ administration and Year 12 areas, the ‘City’ communal gathering space and the ‘Gateway’ main reception and staff area.

Winner - 2017 NSW AIA Awards
William E. Kemp Award for Educational Architecture

Winner - 2016 National AIA Awards
National Award for Sustainability

Winner - 2016 NSW AIA Awards
Milo Dunphy Award for Sustainable Architecture

Winner - 2016 Good Design Awards
Residential and Commercial Architecture

“WHEN I FIRST TOURED THE SCHOOL, I WAS AMAZED AT HOW MODERN AND DIFFERENT THE CAMPUS WAS FROM ANY I HAD SEEN BEFORE. IT REMINDED ME OF A UNIVERSITY.”

NBCS Year 12 student

Space for ideas



NOT YOUR TYPICAL SCHOOL DESIGN

The School's central soaring canopy structure echoes the surrounding eucalypt trees. Underneath, the 'City' provides spaces for gathering, connection and conversation, and light-filled, multi-level pavilion buildings house reception, learning spaces and student support facilities. Lush, green gardens bring a sense of peace and calm to the spaces.

SUSTAINABLE, FUNCTIONAL SPACES FOR LEARNING

The Northern Beaches Christian School Vision is Love Learning. All the school's spaces and facilities are designed to inspire learning. State-of-the-art educational technology and design is embedded within the campus. Rooms cater for learning, with writeable tables, floor-to-ceiling whiteboard walls and large-screen displays. The whole campus is powered by robust Wi-Fi infrastructure.

A LIBRARY FOR LEARNING

In 2019, Principal Tim Watson sought to build a library that would become the intellectual heart of the school, evoking a love of ideas, books and reading. The Sydney Centre for Innovation and Learning space was repurposed into an inviting and versatile library, with reading corners, quiet study spaces and embedded state-of-the-art technology. Opening in 2020, the spacious two-level design allows for a variety of learning opportunities, from classroom lessons to interactive workshops and group discussions.



The inviting, light-filled library opened in 2020.

Purpose-built for learning

MASTER PLAN COMPLETED WITH SCIENCE CENTRE

The Science Centre was the final piece of the school's previous Master Plan, and was completed in January 2025.

This purpose-built, three-storey building features nine laboratories, two classrooms, two seminar rooms, staff facilities, a laboratory preparation room, a chemical storeroom, and a dedicated server room for IT infrastructure.

Tiered external seating provides an outdoor classroom space, while a greenhouse offers hands-on learning opportunities. Thoughtfully designed green playscapes, lighting, and a connecting bridge to the Sports Centre and 'Manhattan' senior study centre ensure seamless integration across the campus.

In 2026, the school's founder, Pastor Paul O'Sullivan, was invited to officially open the centre, which was named in honour of his family: the O'Sullivan Science Centre.



Science teaching and learning has been boosted by the state-of-the-art facilities provided in the new O'Sullivan Science Centre.

Progress of the Master plan

“THE CAMPUS IS ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, WHERE CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION MEET SIMPLICITY AND CALM, IN AN INSPIRING SETTING.”

NBCS Year 12 student



- 2007-2010**
Marina Prior Centre (MPC) for performing arts and Sydney Centre for Innovation in Learning (SCIL) (now the library), along with the oval and car parks designed and built.
- 2009-2010**
Sports Centre, with indoor basketball court, strength and conditioning gym, and design and technology workshop spaces designed and built.
- 2012-2015**
The Barcelona Project designed and built. This includes the 'Manhattan' senior study centre and staff rooms, 'Gateway' administration buildings and the 'City' community hub with cafe.
- 2016**
Refurbishment of the former church building into early Primary classrooms, the Living Room Stage 1 Hub, and the Narnia (Primary) Library.
- 2017-2018**
Refurbishment of the seven 'Islands' classrooms.
- 2018-2019**
Refurbishment of the Maths block of classrooms in the Village, and refurbishment of the Art rooms to incorporate storage and student displays.
- 2019-2020**
Former SCIL building is renovated and repurposed into a new library, along with classrooms, learning spaces and staff rooms.



- 2020-2021**
The Plaza and Zone blocks of Primary classrooms are gutted and refurbished.
- 2019-2022**
Vast site utilisation works, including new Primary playgrounds, seating, awnings and landscaping.
- 2023**
MPC refurbishment including the extension of the stage and an upgraded contemporary fit-out throughout.
- 2023-2024**
Construction and completion of a dedicated three-storey Science Centre, featuring nine laboratories, two classrooms, two seminar rooms and staff facilities.
- 2024-2025**
Refurbishment and re-purposing of remaining classrooms for Music, Dance, Drama and other technology subjects.
- 2026-2030**
Creation of a new Master Plan, incorporating a large multi-purpose auditorium with sports courts.



The high-rise adventure playground is a favourite space for Primary students.

Future plans

Looking ahead, our broader vision for NBCS has been captured and expressed in a new master plan for our site. Its purpose is to ensure that we continue to put learning and people at the heart of our campus, with every space designed to support those who live, learn and work at NBCS.

We are committed to enhancing and expanding our range of learning spaces across the campus.

“FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS.”

Romans 11:36

2026-2030

MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM

We are excited about the prospect of building an auditorium capable of seating the entire school population. This facility will also incorporate two additional indoor sports courts, significantly broadening our sporting and co-curricular opportunities.

INCREASED SUSTAINABILITY, REDUCED FOOTPRINT

All future developments will prioritise sustainable design. Our goal is to significantly expand our solar capacity so that NBCS is largely powered by its own renewable energy. We are also seeking to improve water recycling and irrigation systems to better support our gardens and sports oval, further reducing our environmental footprint.



FUNDING OUR VISION

We are enormously grateful for the ongoing wise stewardship of both the past and the present NBCS Board of Directors and previous members of the school's leadership. Their financial acumen has enabled us to ensure that our facilities are indeed world-class.

Capital works at Northern Beaches Christian School are funded from capital reserves, or if necessary, by borrowing. Previously, parent tuition fees helped to fund building projects, but with changes to the structure of independent school government funding, the school must now rely on the generosity of parents beyond tuition fees, and our extended community, to continue improving and building world-class learning facilities.

We regularly invite members of the NBCS community to donate to the tax-deductible NBCS Building Fund that helps fund our master plan.



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Love Learning