

Domremy College

Location

Sydney, Australia

Enrolment

Year 7-12, 600 students

Space Type

Types A and D

School Profile

Domremy College, established in 1911, is a Catholic girls' secondary school situated in Sydney, Australia. The school runs from Year 7 to 12 and has an enrolment of 610 students in 2020. In 2016, a masterplan was developed for the school with the vision to upgrade the campus to deliver modern, new and dynamic facilities and resources for its students and teaching staff. The masterplan was developed in collaboration with the school's architect and educational specialist with the aspiration to enhance the student learning experience by supporting students to enter their next 21st century tertiary education and working phase.



Their Spatial Transition Journey



The first significant building to be constructed as part of the masterplan is a Year 7/8 centre and library which is due for completion in 2020. It comprises a new library, a theatrette, and learning spaces developed specifically for Years 7 and 8. The suite of learning spaces has been developed as innovative learning environments (ILEs) to facilitate collaborative and empowered engagement in learning.

To support the school's pedagogical shift toward ILEs, an existing 200-square metre traditional classroom block was refurbished into a prototype learning space with the goal of using it to support teachers to transition their practices to the new larger building under development. The design of the 'Sandpit' prototype space enables up to two to three classes to use the space at the same time and includes many affordances which would be incorporated into the future new building. This included a range of purposeful spaces for different sized groups, a large tiered space for performance and presentation, a more traditional tutorial space for whole class groupings, an enclosable 'Boardroom' for small group meetings, two small 'Incubator' spaces for withdrawal and retreat, booth seating and a range of different types of furniture.

The Sandpit prototype has been used in numerous ways to ensure it is experienced by a wide cross-section of the school. Teachers have either been scheduled into the space or specifically requested to use it for classes. Executive staff now hold meetings in the highly visible boardroom space enabling them to model collaborative behaviours to students as well as observe the concurrent learning taking place. A group of teachers has also engaged with ILETC PhD students in a participatory action research/co-design project focused on raising educator's awareness of learning environment affordances, and resulting in more intentional use of the space.

More information

Please contact the Principal, Vivienne Awad or visit the school's website at <https://www.domremy.catholic.edu.au/>. All Spatial Transition Case Studies are available from iletc.com.au.

