The NSW Department of Education is proposing to reclassify Russell Lea Infants’ School from an infants' school (K-2) to a primary school (K-6) to accommodate the growing number of families in the Drummoyne Peninsula area.

What is the proposed reclassification to Russell Lea Infants’ School?

The NSW Department of Education is proposing to reclassify Russell Lea Infants’ School from (K-2) to a primary school (K-6). This proposal will include adjustments to catchment boundaries of neighbouring schools to accommodate the growing number of families in the Drummoyne Peninsula area.

The proposed reclassification of Russell Lea Infants’ School will help to relieve enrolment pressure on the existing public schools in the area and ensure they remain viable in the short and longer term.

How will the proposed transition for students and parents be managed if the school is reclassified?

The proposed transition from infants' to primary school will be delivered over three years. It is proposed Year 3 students will be accommodated at Russell Lea from 2016, with additional grades following in yearly increments through to 2019: K-4 in 2017; K-5 in 2018; and K-6 in 2019. This is subject to broader community input in relation to the proposed reclassification.

If approved to reclassify Russell Lea Infants’ School when will intake of Year 3 students take affect?

If approved to reclassify, it is proposed that Russell Lea Infants’ School will commence the intake of Year 3 students for the 2016 school year.

How will the proposed reclassification affect students currently enrolled in K-2 at Russell Lea Infants’ School?

The current proposal would mean that Year 2 students at Russell Lea Infants’ School will have the option of proceeding to Year 3 at Russell Lea Public School in 2016 or transitioning to their local primary school.

How will the proposed reclassification affect current Year 2 students at Russell Lea who are already enrolled in another school for Year 3?

The proposed reclassification will require a change in catchment boundaries for Russell Lea Infants’ School and surrounding primary schools.

Families living in the proposed Russell Lea Public School catchment area may choose to move their child/children from an existing school and enrol in Year 3 at Russell Lea Public School. However, this is not compulsory, and those families with child/children in K-2 at another local school will not be required to change schools.

If the proposal is adopted, will students be able to join their sibling/s at their existing school under these transition arrangements?

Within the proposed three year transition period, students who have a sibling currently in the other three public schools in the peninsula will have the ability to transition and will be considered a priority within each school's enrolment policy.
When will there be a determination of proposed reclassification?

The Department will make a recommendation on the proposal to reclassify Russell Lea Infants’ School, subject to the outcome of community consultation before the end of Term 4, 2015.

What process is used to determine a need for reclassification?

The process starts with consideration of demographic reports and projections, and review of education planning within an area. It includes consultation with a range of stakeholders including but not limited to parents, teachers, the community and interested stakeholders. The proposed reclassification process importantly allows for community input and consideration.

Are the teachers at Russell Lea Infants’ School qualified to teach from K-6?

All staff at Russell Lea Infants’ School are trained to teach (K-6) students.

Will music, sport and language be offered at Russell Lea if it were to transition to K-6?

It is proposed Russell Lea Infants’ School will work with parents and surrounding public schools in the area to accommodate curriculum and extra-curriculum requirements including arrangements for inter-school sport, language and music for those students transitioning into Year 3 and beyond subject to the reclassification being approved.

Will there be enough Year 3 children in 2016 for my child to have a reasonable friendship group?

The proposal will enable Year 2 students enrolled at Russell Lea Infants’ School to maintain established networks and form new friendship groups.

Why are you consulting with the broader local community now?

Following consultation with the Russell Lea Infants’ School community in May 2015, the NSW Department of Education is now engaging with the broader community to help inform the transition, identify opportunities and potential concerns and attain broader community input into the proposal.

This consultation provides the community with further opportunity to express their views about the proposal to reclassify Russell Lea Infants’ School.

How do I provide feedback about the proposed reclassification of Russell Lea Infants’ School from an infants’ school (K-2) to a primary school (K-6)?

The local community including parents are encouraged to complete a survey and attend public information booths to help the Department of Education identify opportunities, address concerns and attain feedback about the proposed reclassification of Russell Lea Infants’ School from (K-2) to a primary school (K-6).

If approved, does the Russell Lea site need to be redeveloped?

If approved, Year 3 students enrolling for 2016 will be accommodated in currently buildings within the school. As a result, the Russell Lea Infants’ School site will not require new buildings in the short term.

Subject to the reclassification being approved, it is proposed that a Master Plan will be developed for the site to define the facilities that will be required to accommodate the increase in student numbers through to 2019.

When will Russell Lea Infants’ School change its name to Russell Lea Public School?

If successful, the proposed reclassification would take effect in 2016, so any name change will be made at the same time.

Will local residents be impacted by the proposed future development on the school site?

The NSW Department of Education does not expect there to be any significant impact to local residents as a result of any required future development to the site. Local residents are important members of the community the school serves.

Local residents will be informed of any future development requirements should the proposed reclassification be approved. If the proposal were to be endorsed the Department would work closely with Council and local residents to address any potential impact.

For more information and to complete the online survey visit: www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-at-det/announcements/russell-lea-consultation