

Summary of playground vision responses from parents – June 2014.

Qualitative responses to the two questions: *What do you think of the draft vision?*
And *Do you have any other comments on the specific ideas?*

A total of 26 forms were returned out of 200 families at the school (13 per cent)

(All comments reported verbatim)

1. It sounds great
2. No comments
3. It sounds excellent, especially the recognition that current play areas do not encourage risk taking. The current plastic equipment in most Wellington playgrounds is hopeless. Focus on movement! Energy! Telescopes are not often used, especially once the novelty wears off.
4. Well researched and presented. Less preference for science-play-learning. "We just want to play," say my girls. Karori Normal School works well and the girls enjoy that play space.
5. Long slide – like the idea above. Khandallah School has nice fort structure with long slide attached which our kids love. Perhaps double slide, side by side for races and less queuing. Climbing structure, high rope tower, climbing wall (like rock climbing, bouldering). Softer surfaces on ground – less concrete, more green and colour and softer landing under fall/drop zones. Tree house? Shade for summer.
6. Quite a good idea (I think this was one was a child!)
7. No comments
8. No comments
9. Too long for a vision statement. Nice ideas but cut back to one paragraph. Built to last and cheaper is more important than sustainable materials.
10. Remember teachers must be able to supervise play spaces easily. Care to retain lines of sight (not small enclosed spaces). Simple can also have the

wow factor. Young kids really need a separate play area to feel safe when new to school (commenting on improved links between upper and lower playgrounds). Careful the movement is not distracting or noisy when kids are in class (commenting on idea of a working wind turbine). No distraction to kids working (on idea of play equipment that makes a noise) Careful older kids don't hang out in enclosed spaces at the weekend (on idea of building new seating areas). Space – kids sit down all day. Also need good lines of sight for supervision (on idea of providing a sense of enclosure). Don't forget trees and bushes make great play spaces. It would be sad if the native tree area that was lovingly planted by parents and children was replaced by built playground structure.

11. No comment

12. Sounds good! Lots of opportunities for climbing and challenges for older kids would be great. Also some areas to play “house” and a replacement for the much missed giant slide.

13. All children need the experiences to risk take, the entire play areas at Northland school need an overhaul and I would be disappointed if we focus on 9-12 years. We just need a challenging playground to encompass

14. Love it. Play equipment needs to challenge and have an element of excitement.

15. Sounds great. I question the linking of the upper and lower playgrounds as I think it's important for the junior kids to have their own separate space – they are intimidated easily by the speed and energy of the older kids.

16. Great. Use as many natural materials as possible. Wood, stones, stone mosaics and plants. Don't lose sight of the fact that kids just like basic play equipment. Beware of producing gimmicky things for the sake of being showy. Keep it simple and multi use. Incorporate things that are value for money. Don't spend lots of money on gimmicky things (eg wind turbine).

17. Good to see the variety.

18. Sounds fantastic. When is it expected to be completed? Sounds great.
19. Great job!
20. It sounds great! We like the sound of the giant slide!
21. Sounds great! Our daughter wants a climbing frame. She also wants a swimming pool and a beach please... We all loved the slide idea. The only ide we didn't like is the equipment that makes a noise. Otherwise it all sounds great. Thanks.
22. Impressed – very good. Sydney Darling Harbour – a good example. Ditto Powerhouse. Re elements with kid's movements eg water, wind, lighting. Grinders to generate electricity.
23. Vision encompasses a wide range of ideas. Just as long as the noise or music doesn't disrupt lessons (school hours) or neighbours during windy days (commenting on idea of equipment making sound/music).
24. Great!
25. I think it reflects current and future needs. I would like to see the use of open-ended features to allow users to be creative about uses.
26. Sounds great, ambitious scope! Wow factor is nice to have but perhaps more important to adults than to kids. For them I think the focus should be on equipment that's challenging and fun. Plus exploration spaces and social and chatting areas.