FUTURES LEARNING
Introduction

Futures Learning promotes innovative learning and teaching in schools through evidence informed practice, use of learning space and technology supported by access to professional learning and toolkits.

Futures Learning has a strong working link to the department’s Asset Management Directorate (AMD) and Information Technology Directorate (ITD). Futures Learning is comprised of experts from various fields including educational pedagogy, asset and technology infrastructure, learning environments and future focused learning and teaching practices. Futures Learning will work with school leaders, teachers, educational services teams and AMD to support decisions regarding real and virtual environments that deliver teaching and learning in schools.

Futures Learning will provide future-focused learning advice to all NSW public schools. **Priority support will be provided to schools that have or will be identified by Assets Management Directorate for rebuilds or major capital works.**

Our Purpose

**Futures Learning will support schools to:**

- prepare students to be successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens
- provide future focused learning opportunities for every student in NSW Public Schools
- build the professional knowledge and practice of educators to continually lead the improvement of quality teaching to inspire learning, innovation and engagement
- use research and evidence to inform learning and teaching practice
- re-think learning and teaching practices enabled by space and technology.

Futures Learning aligns with other department reforms and works alongside schools to build on the development of student capabilities.

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians describes successful learners as **creative, innovative and resourceful, and as able to solve problems in ways that draw upon a range of learning areas and disciplines.**

View the Futures Learning ‘Case for Change’ video clip [here](#).
Our Projects

Futures Learning will support principals, staff and school communities to plan, implement and evaluate the future needs of students through six key projects.

1. Schools of the Future

The *Schools of the Future* project commenced in 2015. Fifteen innovative NSW government schools have been selected through an expression of interest process to design, implement and evaluate technologies and learning space to enhance learning and teaching. The 15 schools work in collaboration with the Innovation Unit (UK), who was contracted as a partner in this project.

Practices and resources developed by these schools will be captured by the Futures Learning team and shared state-wide through the Futures Learning website and professional learning opportunities.

Further information on practices and resources developed by *Schools of the Future* is available [here](#).

2. Future Focused Learning and Teaching

The *Future Focused Learning and Teaching* project provides schools with a range of online resources to guide planning for innovative and evidence-based practice.

View the [Futures Learning Animation](#) on the *Learning Space* section of the Futures Learning website to learn about how schools will be supported. This section of the website will:

- assist teachers to design, implement and evaluate new and emerging pedagogies, technologies and learning space to enhance innovative learning and teaching practices
- showcase excellent practice in our schools through case studies to promote a community of practice and the sharing of lessons learnt.
- support futures focused student learning in new and refurbished schools.
3. Futures Learning Concept Space – Australian Technology Park

The Futures Learning Concept Space provides NSW public schools with the opportunity to trial spatial and technological themes that inspire and support new learning and teaching practices. The concept space is currently located at Australian Technology Park (ATP) in Eveleigh.

Open Days
Teachers and executives can tour the space with the Futures Learning team to receive advice on how spatial and technological themes can be explored in their schools.

Trial Lessons
Teachers can bring groups of students into the concept space to deliver a trial lesson or activity. Spatial and technological themes will be applied through the use of available furniture and technology within the space.

Learning Space Design
The Futures Learning team will provide schools with advice and web-based resources on the development, evaluation and implementation of spatial and technological themes. Teachers and executives will be supported to design learning space that considers student needs.

Schools involved in rebuilds and major capital works will have priority access to the concept space.

More information on the concept space and booking forms are available on the Futures Learning website.
4. Professional Learning

Professional learning opportunities and events are published on the Professional Learning Calendar. The range of teacher professional learning available will model and build exemplary practice by:

- Showcasing exemplary learning and teaching practice to support collaboration and building strong networks
- Developing communities of practice
- Promoting online communities on Yammer and blended learning modules to enable collaboration across schools and networks of schools
- Providing rural and remote schools with greater access to blended learning and collaborative tools.

Further information on Professional Learning and offerings are available on the Futures Learning website.
5. Partnerships with industry and education

Futures Learning will leverage opportunities for schools by:

- providing opportunities for students to engage in projects and learning experiences within a ‘real world’ context
- preparing students for current and future employment and education opportunities
- sharing experiences and learnings from existing projects with industry and education partners.

Further information is available on the Resources, Partnerships and Research section of the Futures Learning website.

6. Research with Universities

Research with universities will inform Futures Learning projects. This research will identify best practice in design, implementation and evaluation of the potential impacts of pedagogical practice, technology integration and learning space design.

In 2016, Futures Learning is working with the following universities.

- **University of Melbourne** is leading a project that will investigate how teachers enable learning most effectively in innovative learning environments. It will focus on data-driven decision making to guide future pedagogic, infrastructure and design developments.
- **University of Wollongong** provided evidence in relation to flexible learning space in classrooms. This will inform processes implemented by Futures Learning to support schools.
- **Western Sydney University** is working with Futures Learning to provide evaluation tools for innovative practice.
- Relationships with other universities will continue to be established.

Research reports are available on the Resources, Partnerships and Research section of the Futures Learning website.