

Ouruhia Model School – Rationale for change

This document has been prepared to assist discussions with parents and communities about proposals for education renewal for greater Christchurch.

Why is change needed?

A strong education network is vital for the renewal of greater Christchurch.

The extent of damage and ongoing impact of people movement in the wake of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes mean it cannot be restored to the way it was.

We need to accept in areas that have been depopulated we will have to do things differently, which will inevitably mean some change to services. The viability of existing individual schools and increased demand for new schools are a key consideration going forward.

The earthquakes, while devastating, have provided an opportunity beyond simply replacing what was there, to restore, consolidate and rejuvenate to provide new and improved facilities that will reshape education, improve the options and outcomes for learners, and support greater diversity and choice.

Education renewal for greater Christchurch is about meeting the needs and aspirations of children and young people. We want to ensure the approach addresses inequities and improves outcomes while prioritising action that will have a positive impact on learners in greatest need of assistance.

With the cost of renewal considerable, the ideal will be tempered by a sense of what is pragmatic and realistic. Key considerations are the practicalities of existing sites and buildings, the shifts in population distribution and concentration, the development of new communities and a changing urban infrastructure.

Innovative, cost effective, and sustainable options for organising and funding educational opportunities must be explored to provide for diversity and choice in an economically viable way.

Discussions with schools, communities and providers within learning community clusters have and will continue to be key to informing decisions around the overall future shape of each education community. Ways to enhance infrastructure and address existing property issues, improve education outcomes, and consider future governance will form part of these discussions which are running in parallel to consultation around formal proposals.

“We have a chance to set up something really good here so we need to do our best to get it right” – submission to Directions for Education Renewal across greater Christchurch.

Why is it proposed my school close?

People movement and land and or building damage as a result of the earthquakes are the catalysts for change across the network across greater Christchurch.

Many school buildings suffered significant damage, school sites have been compromised and there were 4,311 fewer student enrolments across greater Christchurch at July 2012 compared to July 2010¹.

Even before the earthquake there were around 5,000 spaces already under utilised in the network.

Ouruhia Model School is a small semi-rural school with a July 2012 roll of 112 learners, a quarter of whom come from out of zone. Its proximity to red zoned land means its roll is unlikely to grow.

The school is located north of Christchurch on the outskirts of Belfast, with one other nearby school (Belfast Primary School). The wider area of Belfast is expected to grow: it is proposed to address this by expanding the capacity of Belfast School, a proposed second site in Belfast, and the option of a new school in the vicinity of the Prestons Road development.

Land

Surrounding land has not been assessed by CERA therefore there are no technical category rankings for the land.

While geotechnical considerations are unlikely to be a significant factor, preliminary assessments suggest further investigation will be required if further development is undertaken on this site.

Buildings

The buildings on the Ouruhia Primary School site have suffered some degree of earthquake damage. This covers a wide spectrum from minor cracking to ceiling and wall finishes to re-levelling rooms.

At present no buildings have been identified as requiring structural strengthening.

Detailed Engineering Evaluations (DEE's) are scheduled for completion for the end of 2013 and will confirm the scale of any work, if required.

Buildings on site have also been flagged for weather tightness remediation.

Indicative Ten Year Property Costs*

Indicative Ten Year Property Costs for Ouruhia Model School	\$0.6 million
<i>Note: This figure may vary from amounts previously presented and may be subject to change when more detailed assessments are completed.</i>	

The above costs are predominately made up of works associated with weather tightness remediation.

¹ This figure includes international fee-paying students.

**These preliminary cost estimates are based upon information, data and research carried out by external parties. They are dependent on the information and assumptions included. While these results may vary as further information and/or assumptions are modified, these preliminary estimates will continue to provide the initial basis for costs of these projects.*

Cost estimate information

For condition assessment – a physical site inspection was undertaken of every building to evaluate the anticipated maintenance requirements at each school for the next 10 years.

For assessing earthquake damage – the recording and quantifying of earthquake damage and indicative repair costs from all events was undertaken. These reports were reviewed by professional loss adjusters and are being used to support the Ministry's insurance claim.

For assessing structural strengthening – Information gathered via a national desktop study and during site visits by project managers and engineers has informed indicative assessments around strengthening which have been, or are being confirmed through the Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) process. All follow up site specific invasive investigations are being carried out by qualified engineers who interpret the findings and recommend further testing as appropriate.

For assessing weather tightness – cost estimates were developed as part of a national survey of school buildings. Further detailed assessments were carried out on buildings identified through this exercise.

People

Ouruhia Model School had a July 2012 roll of 112, which is about the same as in 2010.

Rolls of schools in the cluster: Total July rolls 2008, 2010, 2012²

School Name	Type	Authority	2008	2010	2012
Belfast School	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State	375	442	453
Ouruhia Model School	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State	100	115	112
Total			475	557	565

Student Distribution patterns³

Analysis of July 2012 student address data shows around 77% of year 1-8 students living in the Belfast cluster catchment attended a state school, 18% were enrolled at state integrated schools and a further 5% at private schools.

² July School Rolls are total July rolls, excluding international fee paying students.

³ Analysis includes all crown 'funded' students only ie regular, regular adult, returning adult & extramural. It reflects the student's home address – which bears no relationship to the school they were enrolled at. Not all student records were address matched.

Schools with the highest number of year 1-8 students living in the Belfast cluster catchment.

School	Authority	# students⁴	%⁵
Belfast School	State	371	36%
St Joseph's School (Papanui)	State Integrated	106	10%
Ouruhia Model School	State	82	8%
Casebrook Intermediate	State	50	5%
Harewood School	State	49	5%
Cotswold School	State	41	4%
Marshland School	State	40	4%
Redwood School (Christchurch)	State	33	3%
Middleton Grange School	State Integrated	22	2%
St Andrew's College (Christchurch)	Private	21	2%

Enrolments at the two local state schools equated to 44% of all year 1-8 students living in the Belfast cluster catchment. The remainder were spread across other schools.

Thirty six percent of the students were enrolled at Belfast School and 8% at Ouruhia Model School. Ten percent attend St Joseph's School (Papanui),

Schools with the highest number of year 1-8 students living in the east of the Belfast cluster catchment (east of State Highway One and the proposed Northern by-pass) attend

School	Authority	# students⁶	%⁷
Ouruhia Model School	State	77	29%
Belfast School	State	76	29%
Marshland School	State	33	12%
Casebrook Intermediate	State	14	5%
Middleton Grange School	State: integrated	6	2%
St Joseph's School (Papanui)	State: integrated	6	2%
Hillview Christian School	State: integrated	5	2%
St Patrick's School (Kaiapoi)	State: integrated	5	2%
Chisnallwood Intermediate	State	4	2%
Our Lady of Fatima School (Chch)	State: integrated	4	2%

Of the 1,039 year 1-8 students living in the Belfast cluster catchment, 266 or around a quarter (26%) live to the east of State Highway One and the proposed Northern bypass.

Of the students in this area, 77 or just under a third (29%) were enrolled at Ouruhia Model School. A similar proportion were enrolled at Belfast School, with the remainder attending other primary education providers in Christchurch or Kaiapoi.

⁴ Number of all year 1-8 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁵ Percentage of all year 1-8 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁶ Number of all year 1-8 students in the area of interest that attend a given school

⁷ Percentage of all year 1-8 students in the area of interest that attend a given school

Population change⁸

Approximately 95 (36%) of the 266 students living in the east of the Belfast cluster catchment reside in the CERA “Red zone” (again based on the July 2012 student address data).

Of the 95 students in the CERA “Red zone” 35 were enrolled at Belfast School with a further 16 enrolled at Ouruhia Model School.

Due to red zoning it is anticipated there will be fewer students living in the eastern part of the Belfast cluster in the future. No students will be drawn from the red zone area once the land is abandoned.

It is estimated there will ultimately be 400 fewer households in the east of the Belfast cluster catchment compared with pre-earthquake 2011 household data.

While there is large scale greenfield residential development proposed that is projected to result in around 1000 additional households by 2021⁹ this growth is all in the west of the Belfast cluster catchment.

The Ministry proposes to address this by considering a new school in the vicinity of the Prestons Road development.

Note : The timing of growth is influenced by a number of factors such as economic and social determinants many of which remain uncertain following the earthquakes.

The Ministry will continue to work with agencies such as Christchurch City Council and CERA on projected population change.

What would proposed closure mean for the school and its community?

Based on current enrolment patterns, 22% (25) of students reside within a 1 km radius of a state primary school, including 5% (6 students) within a 1 km radius of Ouruhia Model School¹⁰.

Closure of Ouruhia Model School would mean students could enrol at Belfast School and funding could be invested in the nearby schools where the majority of the learners would most likely go, and into the network generally to provide modern learning environments for a larger number of students.

Safe and inspiring learning environments are key to meeting the New Zealand Property vision for greater Christchurch schools, which means:

- Ensuring any health and safety and infrastructural issues are addressed
- Taking into account whole of life cost considerations, to allow cost over the life of the asset, rather than initial capital cost to drive repair or replacement decisions
- Enabling all entitlement teaching spaces to be upgraded to meet the ‘Sheerin’ Core modern learning environment standard – which has a strong focus on heating lighting, acoustics, ventilation and ICT infrastructure upgrades.

⁸ March data has been used for the comparison across the period 2010 to 2012, as no relevant historical July student address data exists.

⁹ Source: Greater Christchurch Household Scenarios 2011-2041, Prepared for the UDS Partners, March 2012. Figures quoted are based on the ‘BAU Quick Scenario’ household projections and are compared to pre-earthquake 2011 household data.

¹⁰ Based on address matched July 2012 roll return data. Excludes international fee paying students.

This will include the provision of appropriate shared facilities across schools within a cluster that can be used by both schools and the community and other agencies as appropriate.

The Ministry will ensure appropriate provision for learners within this cluster to support any changes that may result from consultation.

The Ministry will provide information around enrolment options to families and provide required support.

There is a school transport policy for students and provision will be available as appropriate.

The provisions of the respective employment agreements will apply for staff.

If a decision to close is made the school property will go into a disposal process.

How would the proposed closure of my school fit into the overall plan for my learning community cluster?

Renewal focuses on the cluster of provision within an education community and the collective impact of people movement and land and building damage across the entire provision within the cluster.

The future of your learners should continue to feature in the wider cluster discussion.

In the first instance this is because the cluster may have thoughts around alternative options that will meet the overarching needs of this cluster to not only revitalise infrastructure but also enhance educational outcomes across this education community that it wishes to contribute during consultation.

The cluster will also need to consider how learners might be accommodated in the future should a decision be made to close the school. The cluster would want to consider how enhanced provision that might be required to support moving student populations might look.

How would the closure of my school fit into the overall plan for the network as a whole?

The proposed closure of Ouruhia Model School reflects the anticipated reduction in the number of students who will live in the east of the Belfast cluster.

The other proposed change for the Belfast cluster is to meet the expected growth in demand for primary schooling in and around Belfast.

To the south of Ouruhia Model School, there are two large greenfield developments.

Existing local schools will be expected to accommodate growth in demand for primary schooling, except in the case of the anticipated Prestons Road development where it is proposed Marshland School would relocate into the development and be expanded to meet demand as it occurs.

Facts and Figures

School Rolls are confirmed total 1 July rolls, excluding international fee paying students.

Student Distribution data is drawn primarily from the address matched July 2012 School roll return dataset (excluding international fee paying students). Where March 2010 and March 2012 student address data has been used, the use of these datasets is indicated.

Individual student records have been cleaned of all sensitive data and address matched (geocoded) to street addresses. Not all student records were address matched, as some records were not able to be geocoded, and student records identified with a privacy risk indicator have been excluded from the data. Across all schools in greater Christchurch, approximately 95% of records were address matched.

Where a school has an enrolment scheme, this is legally defined in a written description and is available from the relevant school. School enrolment scheme “home zones” or “school zones” are legally defined in the written description, and the display of any enrolment zone in a map is only a visual representation of the written description. School enrolment schemes, enrolment zones, and associated maps are reviewed periodically

Land and infrastructure information has been drawn from a variety of sources as outlined above.

Utilisation: The amount of student space being used (peak roll) as a percentage of the total student spaces available. Total student space has been based on the number of classrooms as at February 2012.

Peak rolls used: Primary – the October 2011 roll

Secondary and Intermediate – the March 2012 roll return

Relevant reports and documentation will be provided.

Contact us

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