



Greater Christchurch Education Renewal – Interim decisions

Information for families

February 2013



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

The education sector, like everything else in greater Christchurch, has experienced huge disruption as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes. The face and makeup of Christchurch has changed and the education sector needs to respond to those changes.

The Government is committed to rebuilding education in greater Christchurch to create one of the best schooling networks in the country. It is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years to ensure children have access to innovative, modern schools. This means new facilities, with the latest information technology including access to ultra-fast broadband, flexible spaces and energy-efficient buildings that better reflect the different learning needs of students today.

As part of the greater Christchurch education renewal plan, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced proposals affecting 38 of the 215 schools in greater Christchurch in September 2012.

Two of the 38 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) requested voluntary closure and closed on 27 January 2013.





Five schools in the Aranui area were given additional time to provide feedback because of the complexity of their proposal. The Boards of the remaining 31 schools submitted their feedback on the proposals in December 2012.

On Monday 18 February 2013, the Education Minister announced interim decisions for 31 schools. Of these 31 schools, 12 should remain open, seven should close and 12 should merge into six schools.

A number of factors have been looked at when making decisions about schools including earthquake damage, declining rolls, population movement and future growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities there are to create modern schools. The decisions also take into account how each school fits into the whole education network across greater Christchurch and the context of broader decisions being made about the overall future of Christchurch.

The Ministry of Education will work with the Boards and staff of each of the affected schools to ensure access to quality education for children is not compromised throughout the process, and that staff and families are well informed each step of the way.

What the interim decisions mean for you

On Monday 18 February 2013, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced interim decisions for 31 greater Christchurch schools. The interim decisions for these 31 schools were for 12 to remain open, seven to close and 12 to merge into six schools.

Your school's Board of Trustees and/or Principal has been provided with information to give the school community about these interim decisions and what it means for your school. The information below will help you understand what the interim decisions mean, what will happen next and where you can get further information and support.

1 – Proposal to close or merge will not proceed

Schools have until 28 March 2013 to provide feedback on the interim decision. This feedback will be considered and the Education Minister will make a final decision by late May 2013.

2 – Proposal to close or merge will proceed

Schools have until 28 March 2013 to provide feedback as to why the merger or closure should not go ahead before a final decision is made. This feedback will be considered along with the initial submission and the Education Minister will make a final decision by late May 2013.

Your school may choose to consult with the school community during the consultation period.

You can find more information at
www.shapingeducation.govt.nz



If my school does merge or close, when will it happen?

The Education Minister's announcements are interim decisions, and final decisions on the schools that will merge or close are expected by late May 2013.

The proposed merger or closure dates for the 19 schools have been communicated to each school's Board with the interim decision and it is expected they will share this with parents/caregivers and the school community.

In most cases, it has been indicated that mergers and closures should happen in January 2014. This will give the school workforce, students, their families and communities certainty sooner rather than later on the education options available in their area.

If the final decision is made for your school to close we will work with you to help identify the best option for your children and help you work through any issues.

We appreciate some of the interim decisions will be disappointing, and we are committed to supporting parents, caregivers and schools throughout this process.



Where can I go for more information?

Please contact your school to discuss next steps.

You can find more information on the Shaping Education website:
www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

Alternatively, you can contact the Ministry of Education on *0800 746 338* or email *shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz*

