

# Education renewal in greater Christchurch

## *Interim Decision Summary Document*

The Canterbury earthquakes have dramatically changed Christchurch and the surrounding region. School communities are among those that have experienced disruption on a scale never seen before. The toll on students, parents and wider school communities has been significant.

The role schools have played in their communities throughout the earthquakes is acknowledged, but decisions are now needed to focus on the future provision of education for the children in greater Christchurch. The aim is to ensure each and every child can get access to good, quality education close to where they live.

There were already around 5,000 places available in schools in greater Christchurch before the earthquakes, and a further 4,300 students have not re-enrolled meaning there are now 9,300 places available – that's roughly equivalent to the entire student population of Gisborne.

The aftermath of the earthquake has given us a chance to have a look at all the schools across greater Christchurch and see what could be done better.

A number of factors were looked at when making decisions about schools, including earthquake damage, declining rolls, population movement and projected growth, building issues, and the opportunities to create better and more modern schools. How each school fits into the whole education network across Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri was also a factor.

It is acknowledged some of these interim decisions are difficult for schools and their communities and that is well understood.

The Education Minister and Ministry of Education are committed to continuing to provide support for teachers, parents and children as the greater Christchurch education renewal programme continues.

The face and make-up of greater Christchurch has, and will change, dramatically due to the earthquakes and schools must change too. The extent of damage to school buildings and land, and changes to where people live, means the school network cannot be put back as it was.

The Government is committed to rebuilding Christchurch and its education network. It is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years into restoring and renewing schools in greater Christchurch schools to create more modern schools, with great new facilities.

These modern schools are designed to reflect the advice of education experts, and to ensure children can be taught using the latest techniques and technology. This includes flexible teaching spaces that can be expanded, or reduced depending on what is required, in energy-efficient buildings, with the latest technology, including access to ultra-fast broadband.

In line with this vision, in September 2012, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced plans to consult on proposals to close or merge 38 schools in greater Christchurch. Two of those schools have since closed voluntarily at their request, and five schools within the Aranui area have been given more time to consult because of the complexity of their proposed merger.



The Boards of Trustees of the remaining 31 schools provided feedback to the Education Minister by 7 December 2012. These submissions have been carefully analysed, along with any alternative suggestions that were made. The Education Minister has taken all this information into account when making decisions about these schools.

All the decisions announced on 18 February 2013 relating to these 31 schools are interim decisions. All 31 schools will have until Thursday

28 March 2013 in which to provide any further information, comment, or additions to previous submissions before final decisions are made.

To assist this process all the reports and information the Education Minister had available to her and which informed her decisions, are accessible on the Ministry of Education website **shapingeducation.govt.nz**

Final decisions on the 31 schools are expected in late-May.

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## Summary of interim decisions

In summary, the interim decisions for the 31 schools announced on 18 February 2013, which this document relates to are:

- » 12 schools proposed for closure or merger should now not close or merge.
- » 19 schools should proceed to either close or merge.
  - Of these 19 schools, 7 schools should close and 12 schools should merge to create six schools.

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## Schools that should not close or merge

The 12 schools that should remain open are Burnham, Burnside Primary, Duvachelle, Okains Bay, Ouruhia Model, Shirley Intermediate, Bromley School and Linwood Avenue, Gilberthorpe, and Yaldhurst as well as two kura – TKKM o Waitaha and TKKM o Te Whānau Tahī.

### **Burnham School**

Burnham School was initially proposed to close because it's a relatively small school and requires a significant investment to earthquake-strengthen its buildings. Rolleston is nearby and expected to grow, so the proposal was to invest in a new school in this area instead of repairing Burnham School.

The Ministry of Education recommended Burnham School be relocated to form the new primary school that will be built in Rolleston. The Education Minister has

considered all of the information available and decided that Burnham School should remain open on its present site.

Burnham School plays a special role in supporting the children and families of New Zealand Defence Force personnel. The school has developed experience and expertise in providing education and pastoral care for its students and the particular needs of these students, which may not be met by other schools.

### **Burnside Primary School**

Burnside Primary School was proposed to close because of the high cost of earthquake strengthening and the cost of repairing the general condition of the school. There is also surplus capacity in the local network and no prospect of significant population growth.



Further analysis showed there is an opportunity to create an education hub with Cobham Intermediate and later Burnside High School. In the case of Burnside Primary School and Cobham Intermediate (which also requires significant investment) there is an opportunity to share facilities, and for all three schools to work together over time. It may also be possible to look at co-locating other services including health on the site. There was considerable support for doing this across the local school network. Therefore, the Education Minister decided Burnside Primary School should remain open.

### **Duvauchelle School and Okains Bay School**

The proposal to close Duvauchelle School and Okains Bay School, keep them on their sites and operate as part of the Akaroa Area School, should not proceed.

Both schools should stay open as separate schools but the Ministry of Education will work with them to explore the development of a closer relationship between the two schools, including considering shared governance arrangements.

### **Ouruhia Model School**

It was proposed to close Ouruhia Model School because of its small roll and proximity to the residential red zone, where population growth is unlikely.

While these factors are still relevant Ouruhia Model School should remain open, but should eventually be relocated to a nearby site to serve the predicted population growth in West Belfast. The Ministry of Education had made provision for a new school to be built, possibly as a satellite of the Belfast School, in West Belfast. Instead of doing this, when the population growth has reached appropriate levels, Ouruhia Model School should be relocated as a school in its own right to a site in West Belfast. While the Ministry of Education will start to look for a suitable site in West Belfast,

it is not expected that the relocation will happen until at least 2016.

### **Shirley Intermediate School**

Shirley Intermediate School was proposed to close because of its falling roll, the cost to remediate and repair buildings, the existing spare capacity in the local network, and the low possibility of population growth given the schools proximity to the residential red zone.

These factors all still apply and the Ministry of Education's recommendation was to close the school. However the Education Minister asked for further consideration to be given the full set of changes to the schools in the Shirley area. The Ministry of Education did so and changed its recommendation as a result and a decision was subsequently made to keep the school open in order to provide some stability for families in the area. This is in the context that this area of schools has been hard hit with one already closed, one in the process for closure, one relocating and the recent information that Shirley Boys' High School will not be able to remain on its site as a result of its geotechnical assessment.

### **Bromley School and Linwood Avenue School**

There is substantial underutilisation in the Linwood group of five schools and the total cost to remediate all schools within the group is estimated at \$25 million.

It was initially proposed that Phillipstown School and Woolston School should merge and relocate to the Linwood College site.

This would have led to a substantial over-supply of primary school capacity in the Linwood Avenue area, which was a key reason that it was proposed that Bromley School and Linwood Avenue School should merge.

It is now proposed that Phillipstown School and Woolston School should merge on the Woolston site, not the Linwood





College site as originally proposed. This means provision is needed on both the Bromley and Linwood Avenue sites in order to maintain good access to primary schools for all families. Therefore these two schools should not merge and should each remain open.

### **Gilberthorpe School and Yaldhurst Model School**

It was proposed these two schools should merge because both schools have relatively small rolls and draw students from similar catchment areas. The Gilberthorpe site is large enough to accommodate all local children.

Gilberthorpe is in an area where the population is expected to grow and will need substantial investment to remediate property and provide modern learning environments. Yaldhurst is considered necessary to assist with managing numbers of children whilst new patterns of enrolment are established with the redevelopment of Gilberthorpe School.

Accordingly the interim decision was made not to proceed with the merger but retain both schools as separate entities.

### **TKKM o Waitaha and TKKM o Te Whanau Tahī**

The aggregate roll for the kura fell by over 50 children and both have low utilisation rates. Both kura are currently located near each other in the south of Christchurch, making access difficult for whānau in the north of the city. The proposal was to merge the two kura and explore the possibility of establishing additional kura in other parts of the city.

The interim decision is not to merge the kura but to relocate one of the kura to a part of the city where there is no provision. The rationale for this is to provide easier access for Maori children in different parts of the city. There is no set view on which kura should relocate or specifically where to. This will form part of the consultation process to be held in the next six weeks.

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## **School closures to proceed**

After careful consideration, the Education Minister has decided that seven school closures should proceed. These are:

- » Branston Intermediate School
- » Glenmoor School
- » Greenpark School
- » Kendal School
- » Linwood Intermediate
- » Manning Intermediate
- » Richmond School

### **Branston Intermediate School**

It was proposed that Branston Intermediate School should close as it is operating at about half of the site's capacity and has significant costs associated primarily with earthquake strengthening.

It is proposed that Hornby High School's provision be extended to cater for Year 7-8 students in the area.

If a final decision is made to close the school it will be effective January 2014.

### **Glenmoor School**

Glenmoor School was proposed to close because its small roll of 42 is unlikely to increase. There is already extra capacity in the local area and significant investment, given the size of the school, is needed to repair and earthquake-strengthen the school's buildings.

The nearest schools are Mairehau School, Papanui School and Paparoa Street School.

If a final decision is made to close the school it will be effective from January 2014.



### **Greenpark School**

Greenpark School was proposed to close because it has a small roll of 31 and is operating well below capacity. While the school was not significantly earthquake damaged, it is 60 years old and requires significant investment to provide a modern learning environment. Population growth in the wider Lincoln area can be met by other schools in the area.

The nearest schools are Springston School, Tai Tapu School and Lincoln Primary School.

If a final decision is made to close the school it will be effective January 2014.

### **Kendal School**

Kendal School was proposed to close because it has a small roll of 89, which has gradually declined since 1997. There is also surplus capacity in nearby schools. Kendal School experienced minimal earthquake damage, but the buildings require significant investment for earthquake strengthening and to provide more modern learning environments.

The nearest schools are Isleworth School, Roydvale School, Wairakei School and Burnside Primary School.

If a final decision is made to close the school it will be effective January 2014.

### **Linwood Intermediate**

Linwood Intermediate was proposed to close because along with other local schools, its roll has fallen. It is now operating at 39 per cent capacity contributing to an oversupply of places in the area. This school would also require substantial investment in its buildings, particularly to meet new earthquake building standards.

The Ministry of Education's report made it clear there was no strong evidence to change the original proposal. However, a new idea did come up in the consultation

process suggesting the local community may support Year 7-8 provision in the local secondary school rather than in local primary schools. The Ministry of Education recommended this should be consulted on further before making an interim decision to close.

Given that there was no rationale not to proceed with closing the school and in order to provide some certainty to the school and parents, the Education Minister decided to make an interim decision now to close Linwood Intermediate and to consult on the Year 7-8 provision at the same time as the consultation on the interim decision.

The nearest schools (if they change to include year 7-8) are Bromley School, Christchurch East School, Linwood Ave School, Linwood North School, Phillipstown/Woolston.

If a final decision is made to close the school and to make Linwood High Year 7-13, the school would close in January 2014. If the decision is made to increase local primary schools to include Year 7-8, the school will close in January 2015.

### **Manning Intermediate**

Manning Intermediate was proposed to close because its roll has fallen and its buildings require significant investment for the size of the school. The level of investment is uneconomical given there is surplus capacity in the local area to accommodate the children from this school.

The Ministry of Education's report made it clear there was no strong evidence to change the original proposal. However, a new idea did come up in the consultation process suggesting the local community may support Year 7-8 provision in the local secondary school rather than primary schools. The Ministry of Education recommended this should be consulted on further before making an interim decision to close.



Given that there was no rationale not to proceed with closing the school and in order to provide some certainty to the school and parents, the Education Minister decided to make an interim decision now to close Manning Intermediate and to consult on the Year 7-8 provision at the same time as the consultation on the interim decision.

The nearest schools (if they change to include year 7-8) are Hoon Hay School, Rowley Ave School, Spreydon School, West Spreydon School and if the decision is to expand, Hillmorton High School.

If a final decision is made to close the school and to make Hillmorton High School a Year 7-13, the school would close in January 2014. If the decision is to increase local primary schools to include Year 7-8, the school will close January 2015.

### **Richmond School**

Richmond School has a small roll of 49, and it has been declining steadily since its peak enrolment in 2000. It is currently at 19 per cent of its full capacity. The school's proximity to the residential red zone means the roll is unlikely to grow, making it difficult to justify the investment required to fix the school's buildings.

The nearest schools are Banks Avenue School, Christchurch East School, Linwood North School, Shirley School and St Albans School.

If a final decision is made to close the school it will be effective January 2014.

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## **School mergers to proceed**

Of the nine mergers initially proposed, the Education Minister has made interim decisions that six of these mergers should proceed. The 12 schools that should merge into six schools are:

- » Burwood School should merge with Windsor School
- » Central New Brighton School should merge with South New Brighton School
- » Freeville School should merge with North New Brighton School
- » Lyttelton Main School should merge with Lyttelton West School
- » Phillipstown School should merge with Woolston School
- » Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti should merge with Discovery One (in the CBD).

### **Burwood School and Windsor School**

It was proposed to merge Burwood School and Windsor School on the Windsor School site. Burwood School is adjacent to the residential red zone and its roll has fallen by 150 since September 2010. The roll is expected to fall further as more people move out of the residential red zone.

Both schools require significant investment in earthquake strengthening and weather-tightness issues together with other building repair work. Between the two schools the investment needed is in the vicinity of \$11 million. Merging the two schools is a more cost effective way of providing modern learning environments for local children.

If a final decision is made to merge these two schools it will take effect from January 2014 initially on a split site (both sites) and then on the Windsor School site when building work is completed and the total roll of both schools reduces further.





### **Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School**

It was proposed that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School should merge as a Year 1-8 school on the South New Brighton site. The total roll of the two schools has fallen by 120 students – the proximity to the residential red zone makes future population growth unlikely. Both schools require significant spending on their buildings, and a merger will allow an investment in a modern learning environment.

If a final decision is made to merge these two schools it will take effect from January 2014.

### **Freeville School and North New Brighton School**

It was proposed that Freeville School and North New Brighton School should merge on the North New Brighton site. Given the extent of earthquake damage in New Brighton, the two schools would require \$11 million to repair and earthquake-strengthen their buildings. It is more cost effective to provide modern learning environments on the larger and better situated North New Brighton site.

If a final decision is made to merge these two schools it will take effect from January 2014, initially as a split site (both sites) and then on the North New Brighton site when building work has been completed.

### **Lyttelton Main School and Lyttelton West School**

Lyttelton does not have a large school age population to support two primary schools and are both operating below roll capacity. Both school sites need substantial investment to continue. It is more efficient to merge the schools, and seek to purchase additional land to expand the Lyttelton Main site.

If a final decision is made to merge these two schools it will take effect from January 2014 initially on a split site (both sites) and then on the Lyttelton Main site when building work is completed.

### **Phillipstown School and Woolston School**

The proposal to merge Phillipstown School and Woolston School was due to Phillipstown having significant earthquake and other property related costs. Woolston also has property related costs, but at a lower level. Providing a modern learning environment at one site would be more cost-effective and it was proposed to merge and relocate the schools to the Linwood College site.

After further consideration and analysis it has been decided that Phillipstown School and Woolston School should merge on the Woolston site and not the Linwood College site. This allows for the creation of a local education hub, which will include the newly merged primary school, the relocated Linwood College and its teen parent unit. The hub may also include an expansion of the existing provision of bilingual, technology and early childhood education.

If a final decision is made to merge these two schools it will take effect from January 2014.

### **Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti and Discovery One**

It was proposed to merge Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti and Discovery One on a new site as a Year 1-13 school as both schools operated from leased premises in the central business district and were forced to relocate due to the earthquake. It is likely to be some time before education provision is again required in the CBD. Both Boards have agreed with the proposed merger. This means planning for the merger should begin, and a change manager and residual agent appointed.

The merger should be effective from January 2014 initially from split sites before a new site is confirmed.



## Next Steps

All 31 schools have the opportunity to provide further comment, information and/or submissions on the interim decisions by 28 March 2013.

The Ministry of Education will pay up to \$2,500 to fund a facilitator to support each of the 31 Boards during this period (up to 20 hours at \$100 per hour plus \$500 for other costs). The Board may use the same facilitator that it used for the initial consultation period or it may contract someone else. The Ministry of Education has a list of suitably experienced people.

Following analysis and consideration of any further submissions, information or feedback, the Minister will announce final decisions on the 31 schools at the end of May.

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### **The feedback should be addressed to:**

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## More information

Visit: [shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://shapingeducation.govt.nz) Call: 0800 746 338

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