

What can I tell our students, staff and community – suggested wording

Key messages

Proposals for consultation

- » In September 2012 the Minister of Education announced the Government is investing \$1 billion into renewing the education sector in greater Christchurch, including the building or rebuilding of 15 new schools.
 - » As part of those renewal plans the Minister also announced proposals to close or merge 38 schools. Two of those schools have since closed voluntarily.
 - » 31 schools provided feedback on their proposals in December, while five schools in the Aranui area were given until 7 March to submit their feedback because of the complexity of their proposal.
-

Interim decisions

- » The Minister visited schools affected by the proposals and heard directly from parents, teachers and wider communities.
 - » The Minister considered the submissions she received in response to the initial proposals as well as information around earthquake damage, population movement and future population growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities exist to create more modern schools with great new facilities.
 - » On 18 February 2013, the Minister announced interim decisions for the 31 of the 38 schools.
 - » Schools then had until 28 March to provide feedback on the interim decision.
 - » Twelve schools have since accepted their interim decisions so those decisions are now final.
 - » The interim decision for the five Aranui schools was announced on 22 May 2013. They have until 3 July 2013 to provide any further information or feedback before a final decision is made.
-

May 29 announcement – final decisions

- » The Minister has continued to listen to parents and school communities and on 29 May announced final decisions for 16 schools.
- » The Minister has announced the final decision for our school is that it will *[remain open/close/merge]*
- » This means our school will *[remain open on its current site/close on 27 January 2014/merge on xx 2014]*
- » A summary of all of the Minister's decisions announced on 29 May is available on the Shaping Education website at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz



What happens next?

- » The Ministry of Education will appoint a change manager to assist schools with the implementation of the final decision.

Or

- » Our school will remain open and continue to operate on its current site.
-

Support available

- » All affected schools have been given information they can share with staff, parents and communities.

For school staff (if the final decision is that a school is closing or merging)

- » There are processes in place for school mergers and closures and school staff have clear rights and obligations. There is information available for all staff in brochures and fact sheets. Further information about your rights and obligations are detailed in your employment agreement.
- » Each closing and merging school will have a change manager who will be able to provide further information on proposed timelines and processes.
- » Staff are encouraged to discuss their situation with their employer and seek advice from their union, or if not a union member, with an appropriate advisor.
- » A package of wellbeing support is available to schools and staff.
- » The Ministry's Education Wellbeing Response (EWR) team will work with schools to tailor individual school wellbeing plans

For students, parents and the school community (if the final decision is that a school is closing or merging)

- » A letter and a brochure about the decisions are available for parents.
- » Each closing and merging school will have a change manager who along with the school Board and principal will be meeting with and providing information to families. Families will be kept informed as plans are developed so that they know what they need to do and when they need to do it.
- » Plans will be put in place to ensure transitions are well managed for students and that they continue to have access to specialist programmes such as technology education and special education programmes.
- » Further information for parents and caregivers about supporting children is available from the school or from www.tki.wellbeing.org.nz

Further information is available at www.shapededucation.govt.nz
or phone 0800 746 338.



Wording that can be used and adapted for newsletters, emails, websites and so on

In September last year the Minister of Education initiated consultation about the proposed merger or closure of 38 schools, as part of the greater Christchurch education renewal process. Our school was affected by this proposal and we put together a submission to the Minister in December 2012 in response to the proposal. As you will be aware on 18 February 2013 the Minister announced an interim decision for our school and gave us until 28 March to provide any further feedback.

On 29 May the Minister announced her final decision for our school. The final decision for our school is... *[insert decision]*

If school is remaining open

This means our school will remain open on its current site.

If the school is closing/merging

This means our school will *[close/merge]* on *[insert date]* 2014.

The Minister says that this time frame will give the school workforce, students, their families and communities certainty on the education options available in their area.

Change managers will be available in each closing and merging school to help plan and implement these decisions. Along with our school Board, principal and staff they will also be meeting with and providing information to families.

Plans will be put in place to ensure transitions are well managed for students and that they continue to have access to specialist programmes such as technology provision and special education programmes.

Families will be kept informed as plans are developed so that they know what they need to do and when they need to do it.

Further information about the decisions announced on 29 May is available on the *Shaping Education* website www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

