



# Greater Christchurch Education Renewal May 2013

– Decisions for schools  
in greater Christchurch

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*Information for parents and families*



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.*

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

The earthquakes provided us with an opportunity to have a look at all the schools across greater Christchurch and see what we could do better.

We’ve looked at earthquake damage, population movement and future population growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities exist to create more modern 21st century schools, with great new facilities.

We have a chance to build brighter, more modern schools in better locations, which will ensure all children have access to good, quality education within a close distance of where they live.

In September 2012, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced that the Government is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years to renew the education sector in greater Christchurch, including building or rebuilding 15 new schools.

The Education Minister also announced plans to consult on proposals to close or merge 28 schools of the 215 in greater Christchurch. Two of the 28 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) requested voluntary closure and closed on 27 January 2013.



On Monday 18 February 2013, the Education Minister announced interim decisions for 31 schools. Twelve of these schools have since accepted those interim decisions and received final decisions. All 31 schools were given until 28 March to provide further feedback before final decisions were made. This was longer than required under the Education Act 1989, so that Boards were fully able to review all the information that the interim decisions were based on.

Five schools in Aranui had an extended consultation period and received interim decisions on 22 May 2013. Final decisions for the Aranui schools will be announced in September.

## What are the decisions?

On Wednesday 29 May, the Minister announced decisions for 19 of the 31 schools.

The final decisions are:

1. Glenmoor School, Greenpark School, Kendal School and Richmond School, will close in January 2014
2. Branston Intermediate, Linwood Intermediate and Manning Intermediate will close in January 2014 and three nearby secondary schools, Hornby High School, Linwood College and Hillmorton High School will provide year 7-13 schooling

3. Burwood School will merge with Windsor School and Phillipstown School will merge with Woolston School in January 2014
4. Lyttelton Main School and Lyttelton West School will merge at the later date of 5 May 2014 initially on the Lyttelton West and St Joseph sites, and then permanently on the Lyttelton Main site when the new school is complete
5. Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whanau Tahi and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waitaha will not merge and will be retained on their current sites
6. Central New Brighton will not merge with South New Brighton, and South New Brighton will remain open as a separate school on its current site. At this time the decision to merge Freeville and North New Brighton Schools will be deferred.

Central New Brighton, and the other two remaining schools, North New Brighton and Freeville, are now subject to two new proposals that will be consulted on concurrently.

The new proposals are to either merge Central New Brighton, Freeville School and North New Brighton School on the North New Brighton site, or to close Central New Brighton and finalise the interim decision to merge Freeville and North New Brighton.

Boards have until 10 July to provide feedback on these two proposals, and following the final decision on one of the proposals, it will be effective in May 2014.

Details of the decisions for individual schools can be found at **[www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz)** or by calling **0800 746 338**.

# Support for students to transition

The Ministry of Education will provide extensive support to schools affected by decisions to close or merge to ensure a smooth transition to different schools for children, their families and staff.

They will work with every school 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.

The Ministry will work with the schools to help manage student transitions by, for example:

- » providing school visits for groups of children who may move to a particular school
- » setting up buddy programmes so children have contact with other children at their next school before they make the change
- » holding parent meetings with the staff of the next school.

Your school should be your first point of contact for any questions you or your children have.



# Access to additional/ specialist programmes

Ensuring students have ongoing access to additional/specialist programmes is an important part of renewal planning.

Where there is access to a programme such as technology education, plans are in place to ensure on-going access is maintained for students. Where Early Childhood Education services are affected by the final decisions, the Ministry will work to ensure any transitions are well managed and cause as little disruption as possible.

If you have questions about programmes such as after school activities, sports teams or breakfast clubs being offered at a new school, you should talk with the principal or Board members to see what is already available or if there is interest in establishing them.

## Attending a new school

### Enrolment schemes

Where a decision has been made to merge or close a school, the Minister of Education has considered a range of factors, including distances between current and future school sites to ensure that all students have the right of access to a 'reasonably convenient school' in relation to where they live.

To assist this, temporary enrolment schemes are being put in place immediately following the Minister's announcements of final decisions. These will ensure students affected by the mergers and closures have certainty about their schooling options and can enrol at schools close to where they live.

Parents can also choose to enrol students at schools without enrolment schemes. Detailed information on schooling options is available on **[www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz)**, **[www.tki.org.nz](http://www.tki.org.nz)** or phone **0800 746 338**.

## School sites

The Ministry is developing a work programme that will prioritise and sequence building work or renovations required to cater for students from closing or merging schools. Facilities will be available to cater for students from the date that the closure or merger occurs.

The Ministry will ensure any work carried out on temporary or permanent structures is to the highest standard and meets building code. This work programme has allowed the Ministry to prioritise rebuilding and repair work for over 30 schools over the next four years.



You can find more information at  
[www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz)



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## *Where can I go for support and advice?*

You can find more information on the Shaping Education website: *[www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz)*

Alternatively, you can contact the Ministry of Education on *0800 746 338* or email *[shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz)*

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You can get more information about the next steps for your school from your School Board, or your principal.

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