

What can I tell our students, staff and community

– *suggested wording New Brighton schools*

Proposals for consultation

- » In September 2012, the Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata initiated consultation on proposals to close or merge 38 schools as part of the Government's education renewal plans for Christchurch.
 - » This included proposals to merge Freeville and North New Brighton Schools, and to merge Central New Brighton and South New Brighton Schools.
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Interim decisions

- » The interim decisions announced in February 2013 for New Brighton schools were that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School should merge, and Freeville School and North New Brighton School should merge on the North New Brighton site.
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New proposals for consultation

- » On 29 May 2013, after carefully considering feedback from Boards, the Minister announced that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School would not merge, and that South New Brighton School will remain open as a separate school on its current site.
 - » The Minister also announced that our school would be subject to two new proposals. The two new proposals initiated were:
 - a merger of Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton Schools to take place at the start of term two 2014 on the Freeville and North New Brighton sites, moving to the North New Brighton site in 2016; or
 - a merger of Freeville and North New Brighton Schools on the Freeville and North New Brighton sites from term two 2014 and then on the North New Brighton site from 2016, and the closure of Central New Brighton School at the end of term one 2014.
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Final decision on new proposals

- » After further consultation and submissions from affected schools, the final decision is that Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton Schools will merge at the start of term one 2015, initially on the Freeville and North New Brighton sites, and from 2016 on the North New Brighton site.
- » The Minister considered feedback received and a number of factors including earthquake damage, roll size, building issues, future population growth projections and school locations.



What happens next?

- » The Ministry will work closely with schools to minimise disruption to students' education as the schools merge initially on the Freeville and North New Brighton sites in 2015, and then on the North New Brighton site from 2016.
- » The Ministry will also work with us to ensure students, school staff, parents and the wider community are supported and well informed each step of the way.
- » The Ministry of Education will appoint a change manager to assist schools with the implementation of the merger.
- » The Ministry will be seeking expressions of interest for an appointed Board of Trustees for the continuing school (North New Brighton School) and to set up the newly merged school. The appointed Board will replace the elected Board of North New Brighton School.
- » The Boards of Freeville School and Central New Brighton School will stay in place until the date of merger.
- » The appointed Board will decide how the two sites – Freeville and North New Brighton - will be used in 2015 to accommodate the children from all three schools.
- » In addition, the community may choose to establish a Community Group to help maintain interest and momentum, both through the merging process and after the school is established.

Support available

- » The three affected schools in New Brighton have been given information that they can share with staff, parents and communities.

For school staff whose school is merging in 2015

- » There is a formal and clearly defined process for any school mergers, and all teaching staff, including the principal, are covered by the provisions outlined in their relevant employment agreement.
- » A change manager will be appointed and 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

- » A letter and a brochure about the final decision is available for parents.
- » A change manager will be appointed 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.shapingeducation.govt.nz or phone **0800 746 338**.

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

In September 2012, the Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata initiated consultation on proposals to close or merge 38 schools as part of the Government's education renewal plans for Christchurch. These proposals affected schools in New Brighton, including ours.

The Minister announced an interim decision in February 2013 that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School should merge, and Freeville School and North New Brighton School should merge on the North New Brighton site. Schools were given until late March to provide further feedback.

After carefully considering feedback from Boards, the Minister announced in May 2013 that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School would not merge, and that South New Brighton School will remain open as a separate school on its current site. The Minister also announced that our school would be subject to two new proposals. They were to either merge Central New Brighton School, 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 School and North New Brighton School.

Submissions on the new proposals have been considered and the Minister has announced the final decision is that Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton schools will merge. This will happen at the start of term one 2015, initially on the Freeville and North New Brighton sites, and from 2016 on the North New Brighton site.

The current North New Brighton site will be significantly redeveloped to provide a modern learning environment, including new teaching spaces that reflect the latest thinking in school design.



A change manager will be appointed to help plan and implement the merger. Along with our school Board, principal and staff they will also be meeting with and providing information to families.

The community may choose to establish a Community Group to help maintain interest and momentum, both through the merging process and after the school is established.

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 final decision announced on 11 September is available on the *Shaping Education* website www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

