

Property – Aranui schools

Now that the Minister has announced her final decision that Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School and Wainoni School will close on the 27 January 2017, you may have questions about what will happen to your school's property from now until the date of closure.

This fact sheet provides information about school property in a closure situation and information about establishing a new school. Your specialist senior advisor will be able to provide you with information about indicative property timelines.

What will happen to our school's property from now until the date of closure?

- » Property will be maintained to a level that ensures that learning environments are safe and appropriate for students and staff.
 - » No major capital works will be undertaken unless safety is being compromised. However, necessary maintenance of property will be undertaken.
 - » The Ministry property team will meet with each school in early term 4 2013 to discuss its property needs.
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What's the process and timeframe for building the community campus?

- » The Ministry is committed to opening the new community campus in early 2017. The design of the campus will commence mid-2014 to meet the 2017 opening date. The Establishment Board of Trustees will be involved in appointing the architects and developing the detailed design.
 - » Site works including sports grounds, play areas, paths, gardens and other landscaping will be included in the design.
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What happens to physical assets and furniture of closing schools?

- » When a school is closed, physical assets (where possible) are usually distributed among the schools in the local area. In the Aranui situation, the physical assets should go to the newly established community campus. Assets must remain within the state education system as they are Crown assets. They cannot be 'given' to individuals.
- » Where physical assets cannot physically be moved, the Ministry will work with school communities to determine what options are available.



- » Assets that have been gifted or are community-owned are returned, where possible, to the community that provided them. If this is not possible, the Ministry will work with the local community to decide what to do with these assets.
- » Some schools have physical artefacts, such as memorial gates or plaques, that have special significance to the school and its community. The Ministry and change manager will work with schools to identify these artefacts and work together towards the best solution for all relevant parties.
- » The change manager will help the Boards of closing schools to update their asset register.

What happens to vacant buildings and sites?

- » The Ministry is mindful of community concerns about what happens to school sites once a school is closed and before they are disposed of or reused for another purpose, or purchased but not immediately developed by a third party.
- » The Ministry is working with other agencies to explore innovative use of empty school sites.
- » Where schools are closed, or vacated, the Ministry will manage and monitor the disposal process closely. This will involve removal of relocatable classrooms and other resources where appropriate, and decisions made about any future usefulness of remaining buildings, including their potential use by tenants, or the community. Demolitions will be undertaken where required.
- » Any vacant site the Ministry owns is managed by a contractor. Part of this contractor's brief is to provide security where required and to maintain the assets in a satisfactory manner. This would include mowing lawns, removing rubbish and the general tidiness of the site.
- » The Ministry is required by law to work through the Public Works Act mandated disposal process. This process is not a special process for Christchurch; it applies to all schools closing within New Zealand.

If you require any further information about property please contact david.hobern@minedu.govt.nz or angela.hawkings@minedu.govt.nz

Further information is available
on the *Shaping Education* website
www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

