

Property – New Brighton schools merger

The Ministry of Education is working to ensure that accommodation (either temporary or permanent) will be in place prior to the date of closure or merger.

This fact sheet provides information about school property. The Ministry's property team will be able to provide you with information about indicative property timelines.

Temporary and permanent facilities

- » The date for the merger of Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton School is 27 January 2015.
 - » In 2015, the newly merged school will operate on two sites – Freeville and North New Brighton – while the property development for the merged school occurs.
 - » Property at all schools will be maintained at an appropriate level to ensure learning environments are adequate and safe for staff and students until the sites are vacated.
 - » 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.
 - » Additional facilities will be provided on the North New Brighton site for the expected increased number of students prior to the merger date. A member of the Ministry property team will work with the school in the second half of 2014 to plan what additional facilities are needed.
 - » It is expected that the newly merged school will operate from the North New Brighton site from the beginning of 2016.
 - » 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. The property development will begin in 2014 to meet the 2016 opening date.
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Physical assets and furniture

- » When a school is merging, the physical assets of the school (where possible) go to the continuing school. 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.



- » 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 merging schools to update their asset register.

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

