



Greater Christchurch Education Renewal September 2013

– Decisions for Aranui
and New Brighton schools

Information for parents and families

The education sector in greater Christchurch has experienced huge disruption due to the Canterbury earthquakes.

Responding positively to the earthquakes means not only addressing the changed environment and its effect on schools across greater Christchurch, but also taking the opportunity to look at what we can do better to make sure every child has access to a great education for years to come.

The Ministry has looked at earthquake damage, roll numbers, weather tightness, the age and wear and tear of buildings, population movement and future population growth, school locations and how we can create more modern schools with great new facilities.

There were already around 5,000 places available in schools across greater Christchurch before the earthquakes. As of July 2012, a further 4,300 children had not re-enrolled, meaning there were 9,300 places available and many schools with significantly underutilised resources.

We have a chance to build brighter, more modern schools in better locations, with state of the art facilities, and to ensure all children have access to quality education close to where they live.

In September 2012, Minister of Education Hekia Parata announced that the Government is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years to restore and renew the education sector in greater Christchurch, including building or rebuilding up to 15 new schools. The Education Minister also announced proposals to close or merge 38 schools of the 215 in greater Christchurch.

Two of the 38 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) closed voluntarily on 27 January 2013. At the end of March 2013, 12 of the 38 schools received final decisions following consultation, and in May 2013 another 16 schools received final decisions.



Five schools in Aranui and three schools in New Brighton are the last of the 38 schools to receive final decisions.

Final decisions for Aranui and New Brighton schools

On 11 September 2013, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced final decisions for five schools in Aranui and three schools in New Brighton as part of the Government's education renewal plans for Christchurch.

The final decisions are:

- » A new community campus will be established on the current Aranui High School site with year 1-13 schooling and will open from term one 2017
- » Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School and Wainoni School will close on 27 January 2017
- » Chisnallwood Intermediate will remain open on its current site, subject to a review in 2020
- » 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.

Further consultation on the community campus will begin after the announcement. The Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG) will be established to lead the consultation, with the support of the Ministry of Education and the education community.

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.

What do the decisions mean?

If your child attends Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School or Wainoni School

The new community campus will open in term one of 2017, and the four schools will continue to operate as normal until their closure in 2017.

The Ministry will work closely with each of the four schools until they close to ensure they have the support they need to continue to offer quality teaching and learning programmes.

Consultation on the community campus will take place with several opportunities for you to provide your thoughts about the community campus, including how the campus is organised and the services and facilities it will provide. This is your chance, as a parent or caregiver, to shape the way children are taught and ensure your aspirations for education in your community are heard.

You can continue to enrol your children at the four Aranui schools until the end of 2016, when they will be able to transition to the new community campus.

If your child attends Central New Brighton School, Freeville School or North New Brighton School

The three 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 Ministry will work with the three New Brighton schools to ensure all students, parents and staff are well supported throughout the transition to the newly merged school. We will also work with the schools to make sure access to quality education for students is maintained throughout the merger process.



What happens next?

Aranui schools

The Ministry will work closely with each of the four Aranui schools until they close in 2017 to ensure they have the support they need to continue to offer quality teaching and learning programmes. This support might include professional development for staff, sports and cultural activities with the community, additional support for students with behavioural issues or identified learning needs, and additional resourcing.

Community Campus

The year 1-13 community campus offers a fresh approach to education in Aranui. While this is the first campus of its kind in greater Christchurch, there are successful examples in other parts of the country. The new campus will enhance the choice of learning and activities that young people have, and provide modern learning environments. It will assist families with more than one child by providing education on one site – from early learning through to the transition to employment, training, or higher education. It will also offer services that will benefit the wider community.

Community campus consultation

An Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG) made up of members of the local community is being established to lead the consultation. This consultation will give the whole community the chance to come up with innovative ideas for enhancing education and lifting student achievement in new and exciting ways.

This group will work with the wider Aranui community to develop an exciting vision for the organisation of the campus, and the facilities and services the campus will provide. The ACLG will make sure the community continues to stay involved every step of the way.

Consultation is likely to be carried out via workshops, focus groups and public meetings, and cover the organisation of the campus and the services and facilities it will provide. This will include looking at the types of schooling that would best suit the community – for example a year 1-13 school or a junior/middle/senior model, special education and inclusion of a bilingual unit or Kura.

The Christchurch City Council, appropriate Government agencies, community groups and key stakeholders will also be consulted on how to maximise opportunities for the community.

Applications for the ACLG are open from 12 September to 27 September. Further information can be found online at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz



New Brighton schools

The Ministry will be seeking expressions of interest for an appointed Board of Trustees for the continuing school, to be established by November 2013.

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.

An appropriate package will be put in place to support the schools through to their transition to the merged school in 2015.

Special temporary enrolment schemes

A special temporary enrolment scheme has been put in place for Freeville School. The temporary enrolment scheme will ensure that siblings (not yet at school) of students who are currently enrolled at Freeville School but live outside the school enrolment zone, can also be enrolled at the school.

All students enrolled at Freeville School on the date of the merger, including those who live outside the enrolment zone, will be enrolled automatically in the newly merged schools unless they choose to enrol elsewhere.

North New Brighton School and Central New Brighton School do not have enrolment schemes, so any parent can enrol their child at either of those schools if they wish.

More information about special temporary enrolment schemes is available at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

Transition support available

The Ministry of Education will provide extensive support to Aranui schools that will close in 2017 and New Brighton schools that will merge in 2015.

Your school should be your first point of contact if you or your child have any questions around the transition process.

Support for children

When the time does come to transition to different schools, the Ministry will work with schools to identify what support could be provided to students to ensure a smooth transition. That support could include:

- » 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 who will be at their next school before they make the change
- » appointing change managers to work with schools.

Support for parents and families

The Ministry will also work with schools to identify support for parents and caregivers. As a parent or a caregiver, we recognise it is important that you have access to all the information you need to best support your child. Support could include:

- » holding parent meetings with schools
- » regular updates with progress and timelines around transitions
- » access to information and online resources at **www.shapingeducation.govt.nz**



Whatever the change is for your child, the experience is likely to be different for each person. While one child may be excited and looking forward to what a new situation might bring, others may react differently.

Your support can have a large impact on how a child responds to change. Visit www.wellbeing.tki.org.nz or call **0800 746 338** to see how you can positively support your child.



Additional/specialist programmes

Ensuring students have on-going access to additional/specialist programmes is an important part of this process.

Where there is access to such a programme, plans are in place to ensure this is maintained for students.

If you have questions about programmes, such as after school activities, sports teams or breakfast clubs, you should talk with your school to see what has been arranged.

Early Childhood Education

Aranui

Early childhood education (ECE) is already provided on the Aranui High site at E Tipu E Rea, and at Wainoni School through Kidsfirst Kindergartens Ngaire Larcombe. The opening of the community campus in 2017 will not impact on these centres' ability to continue to operate. Further to this, all ECE providers will have the chance to engage with future opportunities for ECE on the community campus through the consultation process.

New Brighton

North Beach Community Childcare Centre is currently located on the North New Brighton School site and will remain on the site. It may remain in its current position or be moved to an alternative part of the merged school site. If the reconfiguration of the merged schools means the Centre will need to relocate, the Ministry will cover the cost of relocation.

Special Education

Aranui

The provision of special education is a high priority and the Minister intends to consult about the possibility of co-locating a special education school on the Aranui campus.

New Brighton

The Ministry will ensure that all children with special education needs are provided with appropriate support.

Māori Medium Education

The Ministry is working on a longer-term strategy for Māori medium education across greater Christchurch with the Waitaha Advisory Board.

Aranui

There is no Māori Medium education being offered at any of the four schools at present. The Board or Boards of the new campus would be strongly encouraged to offer this provision.

New Brighton

Freeville Primary currently offers Māori medium education, and the change manager appointed by the Ministry to assist with the merger will work with the Board to ensure this provision is maintained and grown in the newly merged school. Whānau will be well supported to ensure minimal disruption to this provision throughout the transition.

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)

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*.

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

