

Education Renewal in greater Christchurch

Final Decisions Summary Document – for schools in the Aranui and New Brighton areas

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 students 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 students have access to quality education close to where they live.

Investing in the future

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 16 new schools.

After 10 years, the majority of the schools in greater Christchurch will be modern schools

with modern learning environments. This means brand new facilities, with the latest information technology, including access to ultra-fast broadband, flexible spaces and energy-efficient buildings that better reflect students' learning needs.

Education renewal decisions for greater Christchurch schools

In September 2012, Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata announced proposals for 38 schools of the 215 in greater Christchurch. The final decisions announced for Aranui and New Brighton schools represent a significant milestone as this means, after extensive consultation, all 38 schools have received final decisions, including two schools that closed voluntarily.

In summary:

- » 14 schools received decisions to stay open on their current sites
- » 11 schools received decisions to merge, which will create five merged schools
- » 11 schools received decisions to close
- » Two schools chose to voluntarily close.



In addition, a new community campus will be established in the Aranui area covering year 1-13, in consultation with the community.

While we acknowledge this process has been challenging for many schools, particularly those who received decisions to close, the submissions from schools and

feedback from extensive consultation has been invaluable in making final decisions.

The Ministry of Education is committed to supporting all schools with decisions to close or merge through their transition to ensure they continue to provide quality education.

Summary of final decisions for Aranui and New Brighton schools

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

Aranui

The final decision for Aranui schools is that a new community campus will be established on the current Aranui High School site with year 1-13 schooling, and will open at the start of term one 2017. This means Aranui High, 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.

An Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG), made up of members of the local community, will be set up following the announcement to lead further community consultation on the campus.

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

New Brighton

The final decision for New Brighton schools 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 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 and learning practices.

Aranui schools decision

Proposals for greater Christchurch schools were developed in response to the subsequent movement of people and damage to land and buildings that occurred after the Christchurch earthquakes in 2010 and 2011.

In Aranui, the combined rolls of the five state schools fell from 2,286 to 1,695 between March 2010 and March 2013,

which contributed significantly to these schools having substantial spare capacity. For example, Wainoni School is operating at approximately one-third of its capacity. All five schools suffered earthquake damage to varying degrees, and the combined ten year property costs for the five schools was estimated at \$36.9 million.



In September 2012, the Minister proposed to establish a new Aranui community campus with year 1-13 schooling and close five schools in Aranui.

After considering submissions, the Minister made an interim decision in May 2013 to establish a new community campus on the Aranui High site, ready to open from term one 2017, and to close Aranui High, Aranui School, Avondale School and Wainoni School on 27 January 2017.

The Minister made the interim decision that Chisnallwood Intermediate School should remain open as normal on its current site. Its future should be reviewed in 2020 after the community campus has been operating for a couple of years, and other changes to the schooling network have been made and settled in.

This decision was based on the submission by Chisnallwood's Board of Trustees that the school serves a wider catchment than just the Aranui area, with the majority of its students coming from outside this area, and that it should be retained to provide a choice of intermediate provision for parents.

The Minister's final decision confirmed the interim decision.

New Brighton schools decision

In looking at the best way to renew the New Brighton schooling network, factors such as earthquake damage, school capacity, future population growth, location of schools and modern learning environments were considered. All of the New Brighton schools suffered some degree of earthquake damage and are situated in an eight kilometre stretch of land which is separated from the rest of Christchurch by an area of red zone, the Avon River and the estuary. This is likely to constrain future population growth and the schools already have extra capacity.

Most of the classrooms New Brighton schools are currently using were built

New community campus

The year 1-13 community campus offers a new 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 New Zealand.

At \$41 million, the projected cost of the campus is higher than the cost of restoring the existing schools to their pre-earthquake state. However, providing education through a single campus rather than repairing individual schools has greater potential to respond effectively to community needs.

Consultation on the campus will give the whole Aranui community the chance to come up with innovative ideas for enhancing education and lifting student achievement in new and exciting ways.

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.

in the 1960s and 1970s, and several were built in the 1940s. The age of these buildings means they need significant earthquake strengthening and are not particularly well suited for modern learning practices. By building a new primary school with modern learning facilities, students in the area will be able to access the latest information technology in spaces that are better designed to support their learning.

In September 2012, the Minister proposed to merge Freeville and North New Brighton Schools, and to merge Central New Brighton and South New Brighton Schools.



The interim decisions announced in February 2013 restated this approach.

After considering submissions and the research from Boards of Trustees that few children who currently attend Central New Brighton School were likely to attend the merged school, the Minister made the final decision in May 2013 not to proceed with the merger of South New Brighton and Central New Brighton Schools and for South New Brighton to remain open.

The Minister also initiated two new proposals for consideration for Central New Brighton School, Freeville School and North New Brighton School.

Those proposals 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.

After further consultation and submissions from affected schools, the final decision is that Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton Schools will merge.

In response to concerns about merging part-way through the school year, the merger 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.

By merging the three schools, the appointed Board of Trustees for the merged school will retain representation from all three schools and provide a wider community perspective, as well as the chance to bring together the most positive aspects of all three schools.

Next steps

New Aranui campus consultation

This campus has the ability to raise student achievement in Aranui through different ways of learning, and provide additional learning opportunities and wellbeing support for the wider Aranui community.

The consultation led by the Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG) 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 – e.g. 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 and shared facilities for the community.

The ACLG will guide the consultation and communication with the community until the Establishment Board of Trustees (EBoT) of the community campus is established in May 2014. It is likely that the ACLG will continue to provide support and advice as the EBoT works to establish how the community's vision can be realised.

Nominations for the ACLG will be open from 12 September to 27 September. More information on the roles and responsibilities of the group, and the application process will be available online at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz



Support

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.

Aranui

Taking into account the longer lead time for schools in Aranui before the transition to the community campus, the Aranui Community Leadership Group and Ministry will work closely with each of the four 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.

New Brighton

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

In addition, the community may choose to establish a Community Group to help

maintain interest and momentum in the merging school, both through the merging process and after the merged 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.

Transition support

When the time does come to transition to different schools, the Ministry will work with schools to identify what support could be provided for 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 new school prior to any changes
- » appointing change managers to work with schools.

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.



Early Childhood Education

Aranui

Early childhood education is already provided on the Aranui High site at E Tipu E Rea, as well as 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.

More information

Visit: www.shapingeducation.govt.nz Call: 0800 746 338

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