



SUBMISSION FOR CORALANNE CHILD

IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL FOR CLOSURE OF  
REDCLIFFS SCHOOL

Our Lady Star of the Sea school is a Catholic primary school for Year 1-8 located in Sumner. We are a small school with a current roll of 66 which has decreased significantly since the earthquakes, however we are looking at increasing our role over the next few years.

Our connection with Redcliffs school is in the form of the local Bays Learning Cluster. The Bays Learning Cluster is a strong collaborative community of five primary schools within the local area in which Redcliffs is an important member.

As a small school, Our Lady Star of the Sea has benefitted significantly from being a member of this cluster. We have had the opportunity to engage with the other schools in many of the following:

- Sporting competitions & events
- Combined professional development with other Boards
- Weekly technology outings
- Sharing ideas on Modern Learning Practices
- Music & Speech competitions
- SENCO working groups
- Social gatherings with staff & students

Redcliffs school is an essential member of this cluster and we would like it to return to its old site in Redcliffs. The old school site school is centrally located within the cluster & prior to the Earthquakes it was a major meeting point for cluster activities. Redcliffs is a community that has suffered majorly since the earthquakes & it is time for the school to return to its proper home. It is disappointing that at a time when schools around the country are being encouraged to form and work collaboratively in clusters to share knowledge and best practice, that the Ministry is contemplating the closure of Redcliffs school, which is an integral part of our very well established and successful Bays Cluster.

The potential for further disruption as the Ministry has portrayed, does not stack up against the everyday disruption to the lives of the children & parents who live in the community. For four years they have had to be transported to an alternative site & it is time for the school to return to its rightful home.

We have been informed that the site can be made safe & we are aware that safety is not the reason for the proposed closure. Our Lady Star of the Sea disagree with the proposal to close the school and we would like to see planning to start as soon as possible to build mitigation & relocate the school back to the Mani Road site

Kind Regards

Christopher Dougherty  
Board Chairperson  
Our Lady Star of the Sea  
Sumner  
Christchurch