

Redcliffs School Announcement

1 November 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

What has been announced?

The Ministry and the Board of Trustees of Redcliffs School have worked together to carry out an investigation into the potential psychosocial implications for children attending school at the Main Road site with the proposed mitigation measures in place; and the feasibility of Redcliffs School relocating to another site within the Redcliffs community.

As a result of these investigations, the Minister announced her decision on 1 November 2016 that the Ministry will take steps to acquire Redcliffs Park for the relocation of Redcliffs School. Relocation will provide a less restricted site size and Redcliffs Park will be better able to accommodate future roll growth. This also provides the possibility of exploring co-located and shared community facilities.

Where on Redcliffs Park is the school being located to?

The analysis that has been undertaken to date indicates that there are a number of locations on this site that would be suitable for the school. Additional work will now be undertaken with technical experts to determine the optimal location on Redcliffs Park for school buildings and infrastructure.

When will the rebuilt Redcliffs School be complete?

The Ministry is exploring alternative mechanisms for the acquisition of the Redcliffs Park site. If the site is acquired through the Christchurch City Council's land acquisition processes, the Ministry expects that the acquisition would be finalised by late 2017. Construction of the relocated school could then commence in mid-2018, and the school could open on its new site for Term 3, 2019.

I thought that Barnett Park was the most likely alternative site for the school?

Previous investigations had indicated that Barnett Park was likely to be the most viable option for relocating the school. Alongside Redcliffs Park, Barnett Park was one of the locations that was subjected to detailed assessment against a range of criteria as part of the feasibility investigation. This in-depth assessment found that Redcliffs Park provides the better option out of these sites. Compared to the locations where the school could be built on Barnett Park, Redcliffs Park will provide a less constrained site and also enables us to locate the school further away from any rockfall hazards.

What were the results of the psychosocial investigation?

The psychosocial experts' general view was that psychosocial risk to children attending school on the original Main Road site could be mitigated as long as children are well supported by their parents and teachers and that effective communication and other strategies are in place.

These mitigations would not be 'one off' and should be repeated and re-targeted for children as they work through the school, and for families that move into the school community in years to come.

The Ministry considers that addressing and implementing the mitigations suggested by the experts places a responsibility on the school staff, management, Board and community. While the Ministry appreciates the current Board's commitment, the ongoing nature of the mitigations places a responsibility on future staff and Boards also.



What are the next steps?

The Ministry will work with the Christchurch City Council and technical experts to progress the acquisition of Redcliffs Park. This will include identifying the optimal location on Redcliffs Park for school buildings and infrastructure.

The Redcliffs Board of Trustees worked closely with the Ministry to carry out the investigation that informed the Minister's decision, and the Ministry will continue to work closely with the Board during the site acquisition process.

How will the Redcliffs community be involved?

The Ministry plans to work with the Board to develop a community engagement process for gaining the community's input on developing the plan for the new school on Redcliffs Park. This will be an opportunity to create innovative learning environments that are built to meet the needs of Redcliffs School, as part of the wider Redcliffs community.

More information about the timeline for this process will be provided to the community once the Board and Ministry have had an opportunity to consider the most effective way to gather community feedback.

Where will Redcliffs School children attend school in 2017?

Redcliffs School will continue to site share with van Asch Deaf Education Centre while Redcliffs Park is acquired and the new school is designed and built. The Ministry will work with the Board to ensure that site sharing arrangements continue to be effective for both Redcliffs and van Asch.

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What will happen to the land and buildings on the Main Road site?

The Main Road site will be retained until Redcliffs Park has been successfully acquired. Then if the site is declared surplus to education requirements it will enter into the disposal process under the Public Works Act 1981. The Ministry would work with LINZ to actively manage the disposal process of the Main Road site. There is also a possibility of the existing site being used for a land exchange as part of the acquisition process, subject to appropriate consultation.

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

