

Co-educational Secondary School Enrolment Scheme Consultation FAQs

Introduction

Greater Christchurch state secondary school principals and boards of trustees have undertaken a joint effort to strengthen the current secondary network. The Ministry of Education have been working closely with them to support this collaborative action.

One of the outcomes of this work is the proposed implementation of new enrolment schemes and amendments to existing enrolment schemes for some co-educational state secondary schools. This is being done to improve the secondary school network and ensure it can sustain future population growth and population movement.

There are seven co-educational state secondary schools proposing to amend or implement a scheme and they will now consult with neighbouring schools and communities about their enrolment scheme proposals. The proposed enrolment schemes have been worked through between Christchurch Secondary Schools and their boards.

What is being consulted on?

Hillmorton High School, Linwood College, Mairehau High School and Haeata Community Campus propose to implement new enrolment schemes from 1 January 2020.

Hillmorton High School and Linwood College are Year 7-13 schools. Hillmorton High School has chosen to consult on a single Year 7-13 scheme, while Linwood College is consulting on a smaller Year 7-8 scheme and a larger Year 9-13 scheme. Haeata Community Campus proposes to implement a Year 1-8 enrolment scheme at the same time as a Year 9-13 scheme.

Burnside High School, Papanui High School and Riccarton High School are Year 9-13 schools and are proposing amendments to their current enrolment schemes.

Why are so many secondary schools consulting at the same time?

As there are seven schools proposing new schemes or amendments to their current enrolment schemes, the schools have decided to co-ordinate the consultation so that communities are well informed and have an opportunity to see what is proposed across our city. By consulting all communities and schools at the same time, this allows the schools to collectively gather perspectives from all affected parties and continue to work together to make the best use of the current secondary network.

What is an enrolment scheme?

An Enrolment Scheme is a means of preventing overcrowding at a school, ensuring fair and transparent processes are used to determine enrolment eligibility, and enables the Ministry of Education to make best use of the current schools in the surrounding area. Each enrolment scheme must contain a home zone with clearly defined boundaries.

A school enrolment scheme gives students who live in the home zone a guarantee that they can go to that school. The Enrolment Scheme also details the way in which students may enrol at a Special Programme run by the school, and the way in which out-of-zone applications will be balloted.

How is a home zone determined?

The home zone is generally determined based on a combination of; midpoints between schools, barriers to access, current neighbouring zone boundaries, contributing (feeder) school zones, and number of students within the area, geographical considerations e.g. rivers and access.

A school's home zone must be defined by geographic boundaries, and must be described in such a way that any given address is either within or outside the home zone.

A school's home zone—

- (a) must be an area for which the school is a reasonably convenient school for a student living in that area to attend; and
- (b) may exclude any area for which another school is also a reasonably convenient school for a student living in that area to attend; and
- (c) may exclude any area that it is desirable to exclude for the purpose of allowing the Secretary to make best use of the existing network of State schools in the area.

Who will be managing the consultation?

The Education Act charges boards with introducing or changing enrolment schemes and there is a requirement for them to consult on their proposals. When an individual school works towards an enrolment scheme, the Board is required, under the Education Act, to consult with whatever persons and organisations it considers appropriate and, in particular, must take all reasonable steps to discover and consider the views of—

- (a) the parents of students at the school; and
- (b) the people living in the area for which the school is a reasonably convenient school; and
- (c) the students and prospective students of the school (depending on their age and maturity); and
- (d) the boards of other schools that could be affected by the proposed enrolment scheme.

The Canterbury West Coast Secondary Principals Association (CWCSPA) are supporting this process by providing a facilitator to help manage the consultation process.

When will the consultation begin?

11 March 2019.

When will the consultation be complete?

12 April 2019.

What happens after the boards of trustees have consulted?

When the board has consulted with their community and schools that might be affected by the proposed enrolment schemes, they will consider the feedback received and submit a proposed scheme, along with the feedback received to the Ministry of Education for final approval. When the Ministry has approved the enrolment scheme, the board will formally adopt the scheme.

When will the changes take place?

The new and amended enrolment schemes for the secondary schools may take place from 01 January 2020. However this may change dependant on consultation which will in-part determine the timeframe.

Who can take part in the consultation?

Anyone who wants to have their say on the proposed enrolment schemes including students, parents, local communities and neighbouring schools.

Why aren't Cashmere High School and Hornby High School involved in this consultation?

Cashmere High School have recently had an amendment to their enrolment scheme approved. We will continue to monitor the school's roll to ensure the efficient functioning of the secondary school network. Hornby High School recently introduced their enrolment scheme effective at the start of the 2019 school year.

Why aren't the single sex state schools (Christchurch Girls' and Boys' High Schools, Avonside Girls' High School, and Shirley Boys' High School) involved in this consultation?

Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High School's enrolment schemes have recently been approved to reflect their new location. Christchurch Girls' High School's enrolment scheme has also been recently amended and no amendment was required for the Christchurch Boys' High School's enrolment scheme.

When talking about single sex secondary schools, what does a dual layer approach to zoning mean?

A dual layer approach gives a student in a single sex zone the opportunity to attend a co-ed school.

Previously, some students were out of zone for a co-ed school and the option to attend a state co-ed school was via the ballot system which may not see them being enrolled at a co-ed school.

As is the situation now students only within the zone of a co-ed school can apply for out-of-zone places at the four state single sex secondary schools.

Are the new schemes already pre-determined?

No. Schools value their community's views and realise that the impact of their decisions have on them. Consultation is essential to ensure all ideas have been considered as well as identifying other options or implications that may emerge to assist the board's decision making. Once the boards have considered the feedback, they will submit a proposed scheme to the Ministry.

The Ministry is charged with ensuring the proposed schemes meet the requirements of the Education Act, including that the schools have undertaken sufficient consultation prior to submitting a proposed scheme for approval.

How were the new and amended schemes determined?

It is the board of trustees for each school that make the decision on the areas they will consult on. The Ministry supports this process by providing analytics and data on current and projected school rolls, as well as information on the expected impact of enrolment schemes on the local school network.

Following consultation, the schools will consider all feedback and then make their recommendation to the Ministry of Education.

I don't have children attending secondary school, can I still take part in the consultation?

Anyone who wants to have their say on the proposed enrolment scheme can do so even if they don't have children attending secondary school.

How do I take part in the consultation?

School boards will outline consultation details for all interested people to be part of the consultation. This includes public meetings:

Note the public meeting scheduled for Monday 25 March, 7pm at Papanui High School has now been changed to Tuesday 9 April at 7pm.

- Wednesday 20 March - 7pm – 8pm – Hillmorton High School
- Tuesday 26 March – 7pm – 8pm – Riccarton High School
- Thursday 28 March – 7pm – 8pm – Burnside High School
- Tuesday 2 April – 7pm – 8pm – Linwood College
- Thursday 4 April – 6.30pm – 7.30pm – Mairehau High School
- Tuesday 9 April – 7pm – 8pm – Papanui High School
- Wednesday 10 April – 6pm – 7pm – Haeata Community Campus

People are also encouraged to provide feedback to the schools by completing an online survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Chhsecondarieschools>

What if I want to talk to someone about the proposed schemes?

When consulting, schools boards will encourage the public to attend meetings and provide feedback to them through an online survey.

People can discuss any changes and how they will be affected by these changes at one of the public meetings or contact the local secondary school directly.

Can I comment on more than one school's proposed scheme?

Yes, you can provide feedback on multiple school schemes. The easiest way to provide feedback on multiple schemes is via the [online survey](#)

My children attend one of the schools involved in the consultation – how does this consultation affect our family?

Irrespective of a new or amended enrolment scheme, no students currently enrolled at their secondary school will be disadvantaged and they will remain students of their respective school.

We live in an area that is not currently within a school enrolment scheme but the consultation proposes that it would be within one of the new enrolment schemes – what does this mean for our family?

An enrolment scheme ensures that space is available for local students and any student within the home zone is entitled to attend the school. This ensures that students are able to attend a local school that is reasonably convenient to where they live.

We live in an area that is currently within a school enrolment scheme and the consultation proposes that it would continue to be within that school's enrolment scheme – what does this mean for our family?

If the proposed enrolment scheme is implemented there will be no changes for your family.

We live in an area that is currently within a school enrolment scheme and the consultation proposes that it would continue to be within that school's enrolment scheme but would also be within another school's enrolment scheme – what does this mean for our family?

If the proposed enrolment scheme is implemented, students in an area where there is an overlap are able to choose what local school they want to attend.

Why is there a potential overlap in some areas, where an address can be within the scheme for two schools?

In some cases, schools will propose that their schemes overlap. Where this occurs these overlaps can be approved by the Ministry, whilst giving consideration to things like whether the overlap results in an increased risk of overcrowding at one of the schools.

We live in an area that is currently within a school enrolment scheme and the consultation proposes that it would become part of a different school's enrolment scheme – what does this mean for our family?

Irrespective of any changes to the enrolment schemes, no students currently enrolled will be disadvantaged and they will remain students of their respective school.

Standard "grand-parenting" provisions may apply. This ensures that if an address becomes out of zone due to a reduction in the scheme, the address will continue to be considered "in zone", but only for as long as it contains children who are younger siblings of current students.

If an address becomes part of a different school scheme, students not yet enrolled at a school will be able to attend the school that they will then be in-zone for.

Our children attend state integrated / private schools – what does this consultation mean for our family?

There is no change to your child attending state integrated / private schools however if your child wants the option to attend a state co-ed school, an enrolment scheme ensures that they are able to attend a local school that is reasonably convenient to where they live.

I want to make comments on one (or more) of the special education programmes operated by some of the schools involved in this consultation – is that included in this consultation?

As part of the consultation, people will have the opportunity to comment on the criteria around special education programmes via an [online survey](#)

Some of the schools are proposed to have two different enrolment schemes – why is the area for Year 9 – 13 enrolments different from the area for Year 1-8 or Year 7 – 8 enrolments ?

This is due to the location of neighbouring schools offering education at these year levels. For example some primary schools are year 1-6 and others year 7-8 and some communities have local intermediate schools.

I've never enrolled a child at a school with an enrolment scheme – what do I need to know about doing this?

Prior to enrolment, parents/caregivers would be required to supply documentation to verify residency to the school.

I want to enrol my children at a school with an enrolment scheme, but we live outside the enrolment scheme area – what do I do?

If your child wants the option to attend a state school as an out of zone student, it would then be via the ballot system which may not see them being enrolled.

As per the usual process, the Boards of Trustees will determine each year how many spaces they are able to make available for out of zone applicants.

Each year, schools are required to put a notice in a local newspaper saying:

- how many out-of-zone places are likely to be available
- the closing date for applications for these places
- any ballot dates for out-of-zone places.

However, you can contact a school at any time to ask about zoning and have them send you an enrolment pack which will have important dates.

Applicants are accepted in this order:

1. first priority must be given to any applicant who is accepted for enrolment in a special programme run by the school
2. second priority must be given to any applicant who is the sibling of a current student of the school
3. third priority must be given to any student who is the sibling of a former student of the school
4. fourth priority must be given to any applicant who is a child of a former student of the school
5. fifth priority must be given to any applicant who is either a child of an employee of the board of the school or a child of a member of the board of the school
6. sixth priority must be given to all other applicants.

Can a board change the order of priority for out of zone applicants?

No. The order of priority is set out in the Education Act and cannot be changed.