

What can I tell our students, staff and community – suggested wording

Proposals for consultation

- » In September 2012 the Minister of Education initiated consultation on proposals to close or merge 38 schools as part of the greater Christchurch education renewal process.
- » Two of the 38 schools have already closed voluntarily, and the Aranui Cluster (which is made up of five schools) was given a longer consultation period because of the complexity of its proposal.
- » The remaining 31 schools provided feedback on their school's particular proposal in December. These have now been considered by the Minister.

Information about interim decisions

- » On 18 February 2013, the Boards of the 31 affected schools were advised of the Minister's interim decisions on the future of the schools.
- » The Minister has made these decisions based on a number of factors including the feedback received from school boards, earthquake damage, roll size, building issues, future population growth projections and school locations.
- » Whether the Minister has indicated that the closure/merger process for a school should continue or not, these are interim decisions, and are not final. Schools have until 28 March 2013 to provide feedback including as to why the school should not merge or close. This will then be considered along with the initial submission before a final decision is made. The Minister will make her final decision about the proposals in late-May.
- » A summary of all of the Minister's interim decisions is available on the Shaping Education website at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

Support available

- » All affected schools have been given information that they can share with staff and communities.
- » Further information is available at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz or phone 0800 746 338.



Wording that can be used and adapted for newsletters, emails, websites and so on

In September last year the Minister of Education initiated consultation about the proposed merger or closure of 38 schools, as part of the greater Christchurch education renewal process. Our school was affected by this proposal. You may be aware that we put together a submission to the Minister in December 2012 in response to the proposal.

The Minister has now considered the submission she received along with information on earthquake damage, building issues, roll numbers and future population growth and location.

The Minister has now announced interim decisions for 31 affected schools. The interim decision for our school is

Boards of schools that have received an interim decision have until 28 March 2013 to provide feedback. Our Board is carefully considering the decision and will be discussing our next steps over the next few days. We expect the final decision in late-May 2013.

If the final decision is that a school should close or merge, in most cases, the Minister has indicated that this should happen in January 2014. The Minister says that the time frame has been brought forward to give the school workforce, students, their families and communities certainty sooner rather than later on the education options available in their area.

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

