

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 closed voluntarily at the beginning of 2013. Thirty one schools were informed of the Minister's interim decisions in February. Twelve of these schools have now received a final decision after advising the Minister they agreed with/accepted the interim decision.
 - The Aranui Cluster, which includes Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School, Chisnallwood Intermediate School and Wainoni School, was given a longer consultation period because of the complexity of its proposal.
- » The five Aranui schools provided feedback on the Aranui cluster proposal by 7 March 2013. These submissions have now been considered by the Minister.

Information about the interim decision for Aranui cluster schools

- » The Minister has made this decision 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.
- » This is an interim decision and is not final. Boards of the Aranui schools have until 3 July 2013 to provide feedback on the interim decision including as to why its school should not 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 proposal in September.
- » If the Minister's final decision remains the same as her interim decision, there will be consultation with the Aranui schools and the wider community on the shape and services provided within the campus.

This will include:

- options for the way the campus is organised
- ideas about the types of education on site
- what other services and facilities the community would like to be able to use on the campus.

This is a unique opportunity for the schools and wider community to work with the Ministry to ensure the campus reflects their aspirations for their children's education.

- » A summary of the Minister's interim decision 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.shapededucation.minedu.govt.nz or phone 0800 746 333

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

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 March 2013 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 an interim decision for the five affected schools in the Aranui cluster. The interim decision for the Aranui cluster is that:

- » Year 1-13 schooling in a community campus should be established on the Aranui High School site, replacing some of the existing Aranui schools. This would mean that Aranui School, Aranui High School, Avondale School and Wainoni School should close on 27 January 2017, with the new campus open from term one, 2017.
- » Chisnallwood Intermediate School should remain open as normal on its current site, and that this should be reviewed again in 2020.

This means that our school is proposed to [insert interim decision]. Our Board has until 3 July 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 September 2013.

If the final decision is that our school should close and a new community campus established, there will be consultation with the Aranui schools and the wider community on the shape and services provided within the campus.

This will include:

- » options for the way the campus is organised, for example there could be a Year 1-13 school which could be designed to have separate parts for different age groups with some parts of the campus that are shared; or there could be a Year 1-6 and a Year 7-13 School, with shared common facilities. There may be other ideas that the schools or the community wants the Ministry to consider
- » ideas about the types of education on site, for example early childhood learning, Māori medium, Pasifika, special education and so on
- » what other services and facilities the community would like to be able to use on the campus, for example, health, welfare, sports, cultural.

This is a unique opportunity for the schools and wider community to work with the Ministry to ensure the campus reflects their aspirations for their children's education.

The Minister says that the proposed timeframe will allow time for the Aranui community to work with the Establishment Board of Trustees on the vision for the community campus and for the campus to be developed.

