



Greater Christchurch Education Renewal May 2013

– Decisions for schools
in greater Christchurch

Information for school staff



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

The education sector, like everything else in greater Christchurch, has experienced huge disruption as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes. The face and makeup of Christchurch has changed and the education sector needs to respond to those changes.

There were already around 5,000 places available in schools across greater Christchurch before the earthquakes, and a further 4,300 children have not re-enrolled meaning there are now 9,300 places available – that’s equivalent to the entire student population of Gisborne.

The earthquakes provided us with an opportunity to have a look at all the schools across greater Christchurch and see what we could do better.

We’ve looked at earthquake damage, population movement and future population growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities exist to create more modern 21st century schools, with great new facilities.

We have a chance to build brighter, more modern schools in better locations, which will ensure all children have access to good, quality education within a close distance of where they live.

In September 2012, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced that the Government is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years to renew the education sector in greater Christchurch, including building or rebuilding 15 new schools.

The Education Minister also announced plans to consult on proposals to close or merge 38 schools of the 215 in greater Christchurch. Two of the 38 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) requested voluntary closure and closed on 27 January 2013.



On Monday 18 February 2013, the Education Minister announced interim decisions for 31 schools. Twelve of these schools have since accepted those interim decisions and received final decisions. All 31 schools were given until 28 March to provide further feedback before final decisions were made. This was longer than required under the Education Act 1989, so that Boards were fully able to review all the information that the interim decisions were based on.

Five schools in Aranui had an extended consultation period and received interim decisions on 22 May 2013. Final decisions for the Aranui schools will be announced in September.

What are the decisions?

On Wednesday 29 May, the Minister announced decisions for 19 of the 31 schools.

The final decisions are:

1. Glenmoor School, Greenpark School, Kendal School and Richmond School, will close in January 2014
2. Branston Intermediate, Linwood Intermediate and Manning Intermediate will close in January 2014 and three nearby secondary schools, Hornby High School, Linwood College and Hillmorton High School will provide year 7-13 schooling
3. Burwood School will merge with Windsor School and Phillipstown School will merge with Woolston School in January 2014
4. Lyttelton Main School and Lyttelton West School will merge at the later date of 5 May 2014 initially on the Lyttelton West and St Joseph sites, and then permanently on the Lyttelton Main site when the new school is complete
5. Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whanau Tahi and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waitaha will not merge and will be retained on their current sites
6. Central New Brighton will not merge with South New Brighton, and South New Brighton will remain open as a separate school on its current site. At this time the decision to merge Freeville and North New Brighton Schools will be deferred.



Central New Brighton, and the other two remaining schools, North New Brighton and Freeville, are now subject to two new proposals that will be consulted on concurrently. The new proposals are to either merge Central New Brighton, Freeville School and North New Brighton School on the North New Brighton site, or to close Central New Brighton and finalise the interim decision to merge Freeville and North New Brighton.

Boards have until 10 July to provide feedback on these two proposals, and following the final decision on one of the proposals, it will be effective in May 2014.

Details of the decisions for individual schools can be found at www.shapingeducation.govt.nz or by calling 0800 746 338.



What do the decisions mean for you?

The Ministry of Education will provide extensive support to schools affected by decisions to close or merge to ensure a smooth transition to new or merged schools for children, their families and staff.

The Ministry will work with every school to ensure access to quality education for children is not compromised throughout the process and that staff and families are well informed each step of the way.

If you are a school employee affected by a decision to merge or close, you have clear rights and obligations.

School mergers

Teaching staff

- » Teaching staff from any schools that merge have the right to apply for new positions. Recruitment for teachers at merged schools would first be opened to existing permanent teachers at the two affected schools. Unfilled positions will then be advertised. If any teaching staff are unsuccessful in gaining a position, the provision outlined in their relevant employment agreement apply.
- » The Principal's position at any merged schools must be advertised externally.

Support staff (including caretakers, cleaners, and ground staff)

- » Support staff from any schools that merge have the right to apply for new positions. If unsuccessful in applying for a position, the provisions in the relevant employment agreement apply.



School closures

Teaching staff

- » There is a formal and clearly defined process for any school closures, and all teaching staff including the Principal, are covered by the provisions outlined in their relevant employment agreement.
- » Teaching staff from any schools that close are able to apply for roles in other schools but will not have preferred status for any positions.

Support staff (including caretakers, cleaners, and ground staff)

- » Support staff at any schools that close would also be affected and the provisions of the relevant employment agreement would apply.

Further information about your rights and obligations are detailed in your employment agreement.

Support and wellbeing

There is a range of support available for school staff affected by a final decision to merge or close.

Staff can get support from their Board of Trustees and, if they are members, from their union (NZEI, PPTA, SFWU, AWU, PSA, SPANZ).

Additionally, wellbeing support and employee assistance programmes (EAP) are available to schools and staff in all state and state integrated schools in greater Christchurch.

Visit www.shapingeducation.govt.nz for details on how to access support, including:

- » Education wellbeing response (EWR) services and wellbeing planning
 - » Workshops for CVs, interview skills and stress management
 - » EAP coaching for individuals
 - » Career transition sessions
 - » Teacher support from senior teachers
 - » Relief teaching and non-teaching funding
 - » Principal support
 - » Teacher professional development/retraining opportunities
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The Ministry of Education is available to provide information about additional support that may be available. Call **0800 746 338** or email shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz.

