

Interim decision that Redcliffs School should close

Frequently Asked Questions

What proposal has been announced?

On 25 November 2015, the Minister made an interim decision that Redcliffs School should close in January 2017. This interim decision has been made because the Minister remains concerned about the potential for future disruption to education provision if the school returns to the Main Road site. The Ministry's continued consideration of the situation, as well as additional information from technical experts, has further highlighted the complexities around the ongoing monitoring and maintenance required if the school returned to its site.

Is this a final decision?

No, this is an interim decision. In accordance with section 154 of the Education Act 1989, the Board "must be asked if it has any arguments in favour of the school's staying open". The Board has been asked to provide feedback on a reasonable timeframe for this further consultation process, and then an end date for this will be confirmed.

What support will be provided for the Board?

The Board can contract a Ministry-funded facilitator to support them to put together a submission. The Ministry has staff who will explain the process and seek answers to any questions the Board may have. The New Zealand School Trustees Association will also provide support for the Board.

What are you doing to support the students, parents, teachers and community?

Ministry staff will be available to provide tailored programmes to meet the school's specific needs. If a final decision is made to close Redcliffs School, the Ministry will appoint a change manager to support the Board. Ministry staff will work closely with the change manager and ensure that there is sufficient support to the school throughout this process.

What support is available to staff during this time?

Staff can get support from their Board of Trustees, and (if they are members) from their union (NZEI, SFWU, AWU, PSA). The Ministry will be able to provide information about further support that may be available.

Can the school still accept new enrolments during this period?

Yes, Redcliffs School has a current enrolment scheme, and so it must enrol a student who is genuinely living in the school's home zone. Students living outside of the school's home zone will have neighbourhood schools to attend.

Can the school appoint permanent staff?

No, all staff vacancies that arise at the school will be filled with temporary appointments. Once a final decision is made, Redcliffs Schools will be in a position to know whether it can appoint new staff.

What will happen if the Board leaves and the school is without a quorum?

If the Board has any concerns about the structure of its board and whether it is constitutionally sound, it can call the NZSTA Helpdesk on 0800 782 435, or Carol Burton, NZSTA Canterbury regional coordinator on (03) 386 3400. The Ministry and NZSTA are working closely together to provide appropriate support to the Board if this is required.

If Redcliffs School closes, what will happen to the money that the PTA has raised?

If such a group is independent of the school (e.g. is an incorporated society) then how it spends its funds and whether it winds up is a decision for its members (usually a group's constitution covers these matters).



If such a group is run under the auspices of the school, the funds raised form part of the Board's assets. These will become assets handled by the Ministry (however surplus funds do feed into the available funding that is distributed to schools that receive students from a closing school).

What about enrolment schemes? How will they change if Redcliffs School closes?

If the decision was made to close Redcliffs School, the Ministry would work with the Boards of schools where enrolment schemes were required to change so that these were implemented in a timely way. Enrolment schemes are established to ensure that all students have the right of access to a 'reasonably convenient school' in relation to where they live.

Who decides whether to close a school?

The Minister of Education makes the decision about the closure or merger or relocation of a state school. A final decision can only be made after consultation with the board and the boards of other schools where the roll may be affected.

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

