



## Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

Ms T Phelan  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Waitaha School  
221 Kirk Rd  
R D 8  
Christchurch 7678

Tēnā koe Ms Phelan

I am writing to you about the developing plan for the future of the special schools network in Christchurch.

We have a valuable opportunity now to ensure that the greater Christchurch special schools are in the best possible position to support children and young people with special education needs. I want to thank your Board for its ongoing engagement with the process for developing and considering proposals for this plan.

The Ministry will be continuing to engage with you and the Boards of the other greater Christchurch day special schools to further consider and progress elements of this plan. This includes the development of geographical catchments, the development of a network of satellites, and the continued development and expansion of the Specialist Teacher Outreach Service.

The Ministry has provided me with the informal submission that your Board made late last year, which included your current views on the proposal that Waitaha School be relocated and co-located onto a mainstream school site. I acknowledge the concerns that your Board and community have raised about this proposal, and I also want to acknowledge the fact that change of any type or scale can be a difficult prospect to face.

I do, however, want to ensure that this proposal and the benefits it could provide for our children and young people have been given full and careful consideration, so that we can be confident of making the best decision for their future. For this reason, I am asking that your Board engages again with its community, this time on the more specific proposal that Waitaha School be relocated and co-located with either the new primary school or the new secondary school that will open in Rolleston at the beginning of 2016 and 2017 respectively.

I assure you that the feedback you have provided so far, alongside any further feedback your Board or community wish to provide, will be given full consideration before any final decisions are made about whether to progress this proposal. I recognise that the opportunities and potential benefits of co-location would not be realised without the support of you Board.

The Ministry will confirm a date with you for submission of your feedback.

Although there is a need to achieve certainty soon about whether or not this specific proposal will be progressed, the Ministry and I remain open to exploring any further options or proposals that may arise during this next phase of engagement.

I am aware that your Board has already indicated its desire to develop satellite provision at the new Rolleston Secondary School and West Rolleston Primary School. I agree that satellite provision should be part of these new schools, and the Ministry will work with your Board to progress this. If your Board decides against providing these satellites, the Ministry will identify another provider for these. The satellite provision will progress whether or not the Waitaha base school is also co-located on one of these new school sites.

I am also asking the Board of Allenvale Special School and Resource Centre to engage with its community about the proposal that that school be relocated and co-located with a mainstream school (to be identified) in the northern area of Christchurch; and have asked Ferndale School to engage about the proposal that its base school be relocated and co-located with the future Aranui Community School. Your Board is also invited to provide any comment it may have about these proposals.

The Ministry will also be engaging an outside facilitator to help facilitate community discussion and engagement with the proposals for each of the three schools. Your Board may wish to coordinate your engagement process with this facilitator, but you can also choose to remain separate from this.

I have enclosed a copy of the report that the Ministry provided to me, which contains more detail about the proposals. The Ministry will ensure that you are provided with any further information that you or your community need to consider these proposals, and particularly that you have a firm understanding of what co-location would and would not mean for your school.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of special education in greater Christchurch.

Heoi anō



Hon Hekia Parata  
**Minister of Education**

Encl

cc Mrs M. Dodds, Principal, Waitaha School



## Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

Mr P Coker  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Allenvale Special School & Resource Centre  
14A Aorangi Road  
Bryndwr  
Christchurch 8053

Tēnā koe Mr Coker

I am writing to you about the developing plan for the future of the special schools network in Christchurch.

We have a valuable opportunity now to ensure that the greater Christchurch special schools are in the best possible position to support children and young people with special education needs. I want to thank your Board for its ongoing engagement with the process for developing and considering proposals for this plan.

I also want to thank your Principal, Graeme Daniel, for meeting with me and discussing his views on the developing plan. Following this meeting, I asked the Ministry to review the report it had prepared for me about this plan, to ensure that the matters raised by Mr Daniel were appropriately addressed.

The Ministry has provided me with the informal submission that your Board made late last year. It was pleasing to read about the positive way in which your Board is embracing the prospect of change, and the new opportunities you have identified for Allenvale School to support special education in the Northern Christchurch area.

The Ministry will be continuing to engage with you and the Boards of the other greater Christchurch day special schools to further consider and progress elements of this vision. This includes the development of geographical catchments, the development of a network of satellites, and the continued development and expansion of the Specialist Teacher Outreach Service.

I am now asking that your Board engages again with its community, specifically on the proposal that Allenvale Special School be relocated and co-located with either a primary school or a secondary school (to be identified) in the North of Christchurch.



I assure you that any further feedback you wish to provide about this will be given full consideration before any final decisions are made about whether to progress this proposal. I recognise that the opportunities and potential benefits of co-location would not be realised without the support of you Board. The Ministry and I also remain open to exploring any further options or proposals that may arise during this next phase of engagement.

The Ministry will confirm a date with you for submission of your feedback.

I am also asking the Board of Waitaha School to engage with its community about the proposal that that school be relocated and co-located with either the new secondary school or new primary school in Rolleston; and have asked the Ferndale School Board to engage about the proposal that its base school be relocated and co-located with the future Aranui Community School. Your Board is also invited to provide any comment it may have about these proposals.

The Ministry will be engaging an outside facilitator to help facilitate community discussion and engagement with the proposals for the three schools. Your Board may wish to coordinate your engagement process with this facilitator, but you can also choose to remain separate from this.

I have enclosed a copy of the report that the Ministry provided to me, which contains more detail about the proposals. The Ministry will ensure that you are provided with any further information that you or your community need to consider these proposals, and particularly that you have a firm understanding of what co-location would and would not mean for your school.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of special education in greater Christchurch.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Hekia Parata'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Hekia' and last name 'Parata' clearly distinguishable.

Hon Hekia Parata  
**Minister of Education**

Encl

cc Mr G H Daniel, Principal, Allenvale Special School & Resource Centre



## Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

Mrs J Morris  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Ferndale School  
P O Box 36024  
Merivale  
Christchurch 8146

Tēnā koe Mrs Morris

I am writing to you about the developing vision for the future of the Special Education network in Christchurch.

We have a valuable opportunity now to ensure that the Special Education network in greater Christchurch is in the best possible position to support children and young people with special education needs. I want to thank your Board for its ongoing engagement with the process for developing and considering proposals for this vision.

The Ministry has provided me with the informal submission that your Board made late last year. It was pleasing to read about the shared aspirations that you and your community have for Ferndale students.

The Ministry will be continuing to engage with you and the Boards of the other greater Christchurch day special schools to further consider and progress elements of this vision. This includes the development of geographical catchments, the development of a network of satellites, and the continued development and expansion of the Specialist Teacher Outreach Service.

I am now asking that your Board engages again with its community, this time on the specific proposal that Ferndale School be relocated and co-located with the new Year 1-13 Aranui Community School, which will open at the beginning of 2017.

I assure you that any feedback your Board and community wish to provide about this will be given full consideration before any final decisions are made about whether to progress this proposal. I recognise that the opportunities and potential benefits of co-location would not be realised without the support of you Board.

The Ministry will confirm a date with you for submission of your feedback.

Although there is a need to achieve certainty soon about whether or not this specific proposal will be progressed, the Ministry and I remain open to exploring any further options or proposals that may arise during this next phase of engagement. For example, the Ministry has advised me that even if the Ferndale base school was relocated, there could be merit in retaining the current Ferndale School site for continued special education provision (eg As a satellite of an Aranui-based Ferndale School).

I have decided that, whether or not Ferndale School is co-located with Aranui Community School, special education satellite provision should be part of this new school. If your Board agrees to providing a satellite of Ferndale School at this new school, the Ministry will work with your Board to progress this. If your Board does not agree to this, the Ministry will identify another school to operate this satellite.

I am also asking the Board of Waitaha School to engage with its community about the proposal that that school be relocated and co-located with either the new secondary school or new primary school in Rolleston; and have asked the Board of Allenvale Special School and Resource Centre to engage with its community about the proposal that that school be relocated and co-located with a mainstream school (to be identified) in the northern area of Christchurch. Your Board is also invited to provide any comment it may have about these proposals.

The Ministry will also be engaging an outside facilitator to help facilitate community discussion and engagement with the proposals for each of the three schools. Your Board may wish to coordinate your engagement process with this facilitator, but you can also choose to remain separate from this.

I have enclosed a copy of the report that the Ministry provided to me, which contains more detail about the proposals. The Ministry will ensure that you are provided with any further information that you or your community need to consider these proposals, and particularly that you have a firm understanding of what co-location would and would not mean for your school.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of Special Education in greater Christchurch.

Heoi anō



Hon Hekia Parata  
**Minister of Education**

Encl

cc Mr R Farrelly, Principal, Ferndale School