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2/9 Washington Way  
PO Box 4544  
Christchurch 8140  
New Zealand

5 March 2014

Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education  
Private Bag 18041  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister Parata

**Re: Proposal to Close St Paul's School (MOE No. 3541) &  
Our Lady of Fatima School (MOE No. 3460) and  
establish St Francis of Assisi Catholic School**

I write regarding our agreement in principle to reorganise Catholic primary schooling within the Catholic parish of Mairehau to provide a new state integrated full primary school entity (to be named St Francis of Assisi Catholic School), with a maximum roll of 495 students, situated on the St Francis of Assisi Parish site at 370 Innes Road (commencing in term 1, 2016).

I have undertaken a third and final round of consultation on two options for developing this Catholic schooling provision. This third round of consultation was limited to the affected parties - the staff (the employees) and the boards (the employers) of the two schools.

The independent facilitator's report on this consultation is enclosed.

I have given serious consideration to the consultation responses. The detail and results of my considerations and deliberations on the feedback I have received to my consultation are enclosed.

My decision and proposal to you is to close both St Paul's School and Our Lady of Fatima (OLF) School and establish and integrate a new school, St Francis of Assisi Catholic School, on the current OLF site.

Yours sincerely

† Barry Jones  
Bishop of Christchurch

Encl. 1 (Executive Summary & Decision Proposal)  
Encl. 2 (Independent Facilitator's Consultation Report)