



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education
03 JUN 2014



Bishop Barry Jones
Bishop of Christchurch
Catholic Diocese of Christchurch
PO Box 4544
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Tēnā koe Bishop Jones

I am writing to you having considered carefully your letter of 5 March 2014, the facilitator's report about the consultation process for managing possible changes to schooling in the Catholic parish of St Francis of Assisi, Mairehau, and information about this proposed change provided to me by the Ministry.

After considering this information I have agreed that the Ministry will now undertake consultation with the boards of the affected schools about your proposal to cancel the integration agreements for both St Paul's School and Our Lady of Fatima School (your consultation Option A).

I have also asked that two options for the implementation timeframe be included as part of the consultation. I consider that it is time to bring a level of certainty to the schools concerned and their communities. Two possible dates for implementation of the change are the start of term 3, 2015 and the start of term 1, 2016. If the final decision is that the change takes place during 2015, I understand that schooling may need to operate from two sites while any building work is completed.

The Private Schools Conditional Integration Act (section 11C) allows for the Proprietor and the Minister to cancel an integration agreement by mutual agreement after consultation with such other interested persons or groups as is considered appropriate.

I understand that if, following this formal consultation process, your proposal is approved and both integration agreements are cancelled, you would move to close the schools and that you would also apply to establish and integrate a new school, to be located on the current Our Lady of Fatima School site (to be known as St Francis of Assisi Catholic School). In the event the proposal is approved, this new school would become operational at the same time as the other schools close, with a view to minimising any impact on students' learning.

Before the Ministry begins its consultation, I invite you to meet with your representatives from the Boards of St Paul's and Our Lady of Fatima Schools to inform them of your decision to propose that Option A is implemented, and that the Ministry's formal consultation on that proposal will begin shortly.

You are welcome to contact Chris Bryant in the Ministry's Christchurch Office (phone 03 378 7349) who will be managing the Ministry's consultation process.

Heoi anō

Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education