

St Francis of Assisi Catholic School (Mairehau) – Process for Establishment

Executive Summary

1. I undertook a third and final round of consultation on two options for developing this agreed in principle Catholic schooling provision; the two consultation options were:

Option A: Cancel the integration agreements for both current schools and establish a new state integrated school on the current Our Lady of Fatima (OLF) School site. In this option all positions at both schools would be terminated and positions at the new school would be advertised nationally.

Option B: Cancel the integration agreement and close St Paul's School and increase the maximum roll of Our Lady of Fatima School and manage the staffing of the larger (and re-named) Our Lady of Fatima School as a merger. In this option the staff from both schools would have the first option of equivalent positions in the 'new schooling entity', with the principal's position being advertised nationally. This option could only apply in the event that both boards and all staff unanimously support this as the appropriate option.

2. No consensus of support for any particular option resulted from this third round of consultation:

- (a) 21 staff responded to the survey on the two options; of these, 13 staff (62%) voted in favour of option A and 8 staff (38%) voted in favour of option B.
- (b) 15 of the OLF staff did not respond to the survey on the two options and chose to put in a submission in favour of the option we withdrew from the consultation process following the second round of consultation – the continuation of OLF School and the closure of St Paul's School; an option that the staff of St Paul's School would not support.
- (c) The submission from the Board of Trustees of St Paul's School notes benefits in both option A & option B and they would support either option, as determined by me (as Bishop and Proprietor) and by you (as the Minister of Education).
- (d) The submission from the Board of Trustees of OLF seeks the reinstatement of the option we withdrew from the consultation process following the second round of consultation – the continuation of OLF School and the closure of St Paul's School; an option that Board of Trustees of St Paul's School would not support.

3. The submission of the OLF School Board of Trustees provided their view that the implementation of option A would lack the genuineness that a reorganisation requires should redundancies arise.

I do not concur with this point of view.

My proposal, regardless of the option chosen to develop our agreed in principle new schooling entity, is a genuine reorganisation of Catholic primary school provision in St Francis of Assisi Parish due to an earthquake.

OLF School was the parish school of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and St Paul's School was the parish school of St Paul's Parish. Neither Our Lady of Fatima Parish nor St Paul's Parish currently exists.

In January 2012 I, Bishop Barry Jones, established the new parish entity of St Francis of Assisi Parish by the amalgamation of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and St Paul's Parish (along with Holy Family Parish).

The new schooling entity of St Francis of Assisi School will be the parish school of St Francis of Assisi Parish.

This is a genuine reorganisation of Catholic primary school provision in St Francis of Assisi Parish due to an earthquake.

4. As Bishop and Proprietor of the two schools, and having regard for the widest interests of St Francis of Assisi parish and its new schooling entity, it is incumbent upon me to make a decision in this matter.

As the Bishop responsible for this parish community I acknowledge and understand the pain of my parishioners. I accept and understand that earthquake enforced change is difficult to accept. It is the "goodbye" to the familiar and much loved cultures that hurts us all; but the earthquakes necessitate change to Catholic primary school provision in St Francis of Assisi Parish.

At such a time of renewal a Catholic parish school community is called beyond itself to unite and renew itself in fidelity to the understanding the Catholic Church has of parish primary schooling; bringing consistency with the mind of the Church in a time of enforced change.

5. Given the lack of consensus, my decision must be to seek your agreement to the implementation of option A (as detailed above).
6. In addition, I would ask your consideration of all surplus operations grant funds of both schools being retained in the new schooling entity and not being absorbed into the consolidated fund.

Conclusion & Decision Proposal

Minister Parata, given the consultation feedback and my subsequent consultation considerations (*as summarised on pages 2 & 3*), I would request your consideration to supporting option A for implementing our agreed in principle provision of:

- 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.

This option A being the cancellation of both integration agreements and the closure of both schools and the establishment of a new state integrated school, St Francis of Assisi Catholic School (SFOA), on the current Our Lady of Fatima School (OLOF) site.

Option A	Process for Staff	If the Proprietor / Minister want to progress this what are the next steps?
Cancel both integration agreements and close both schools and establish a new state integrated school, St Francis of Assisi Catholic School (SFOA), on the Our Lady of Fatima School (OLOF) site.	The normal PTCA ¹ , PPCA ² , SSCA ³ staffing options would be provided to staff of the closing schools that were not successful in being appointed to positions in the new state integrated school. All positions at the new school would be advertised nationally.	If approved, progress the cancellation / closure of the schools during 2014, 2015 on the condition that the application for the new integration of the school is approved.
	Process for Board	
	The Minister would appoint a Board to provide the required governance decisions to bring the new school into existence. This Establishment Board would include at least one proprietor's appointee.	

In addition, I would ask your consideration of all surplus operations grant funds of both schools being retained in the new schooling entity and not being absorbed into the consolidated fund.

¹ Primary Teachers' Collective Agreement

² Primary Principals' Collective Agreement

³ Support Staff Collective Agreement