

Proposal to Combine St Paul's School and Our Lady of Fatima School

Why is this change being proposed?

As a result of the 4 September 2010 earthquake St Paul's School (Dallington) was rendered unsafe and the entire school moved firstly to the Ministry's vacant school site at Champion Street for one week then moved to the Catholic Cathedral College site. The 22 February 2011 earthquake resulted in St Paul's School being relocated once again, thanks to Ministry generosity, back to the Champion Street site.

The then Minister of Education kindly agreed to the Bishop's request for St Paul's School to remain on the Champion St site in St Albans until December 2013; with a right of a further 1 year term, should that be necessary.

The red zoning of the St Paul's school and church site means that St Paul's School cannot return to its Gayhurst Road site.

In addition, Bishop Barry Jones has disestablished the three former parishes of St Paul's Parish (Dallington), Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Mairehau) & Holy Family Parish (Burwood) and has established a new parish with the locational name of the Catholic Parish of Mairehau.

The Diocese, prior to the earthquakes, commenced a consultation process on the provision of Sunday Mass in the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. This process is continuing in other parts of the Diocese, but the former parishes of Mairehau, Dallington and Burwood, as a result of this consultation process, are now amalgamated into the new Catholic Parish of Mairehau.

The Bishop is not considering re-drawing the parish boundaries. The Bishop has confirmed that the Catholic Parish of Mairehau will remain on its Innes Road site.

It is in this context that the Bishop has made his proposal.

St Paul's School does not have a "home" post 2014.

The Bishop's priority is to ensure the St Paul's School community has a "home" post 2014.

The Catholic parish that sustains the life of St Paul's School is the Catholic Parish of Mairehau. A Catholic school is one important visible expression of parish life. No Catholic school can adequately fulfil its educational role on its own.

A Catholic school must be continually fed and stimulated by the living and liturgical and sacramental life of the parish; and in the lives of the parishioners (past and present) who bear daily and weekly witness to the Word of God and the work of the Church.

It is for these reasons that the Bishop is proposing to provide the St Paul's School community with a new "home" at the heart of their parish, the Catholic Parish of Mairehau.

This proposal is based upon a philosophy of a meeting of equals with support from their parish community.

This proposal is also based upon a desire of the Bishop to build upon the best practice and strengths of St Paul's School & Our Lady of Fatima School and to further enhance options and outcomes for the students of the Catholic Parish of Mairehau.

Population context

1. Residential red zone population losses:

Former Parish Boundary	Residential Red Zone Population Losses
Dallington	- 6,861 loss
Burwood	- 1,476 loss

2. Former Parish of Mairehau – minor population gain.

3. Potential population gains in the former parish of Burwood ranging between 4,728 and 6,253 people (Prestons development) ... see *Appendix 1*.

(**Source:** Resource Management Group (*Darryl Millar, Director*) – report for the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch)

4. 1st July Rolls

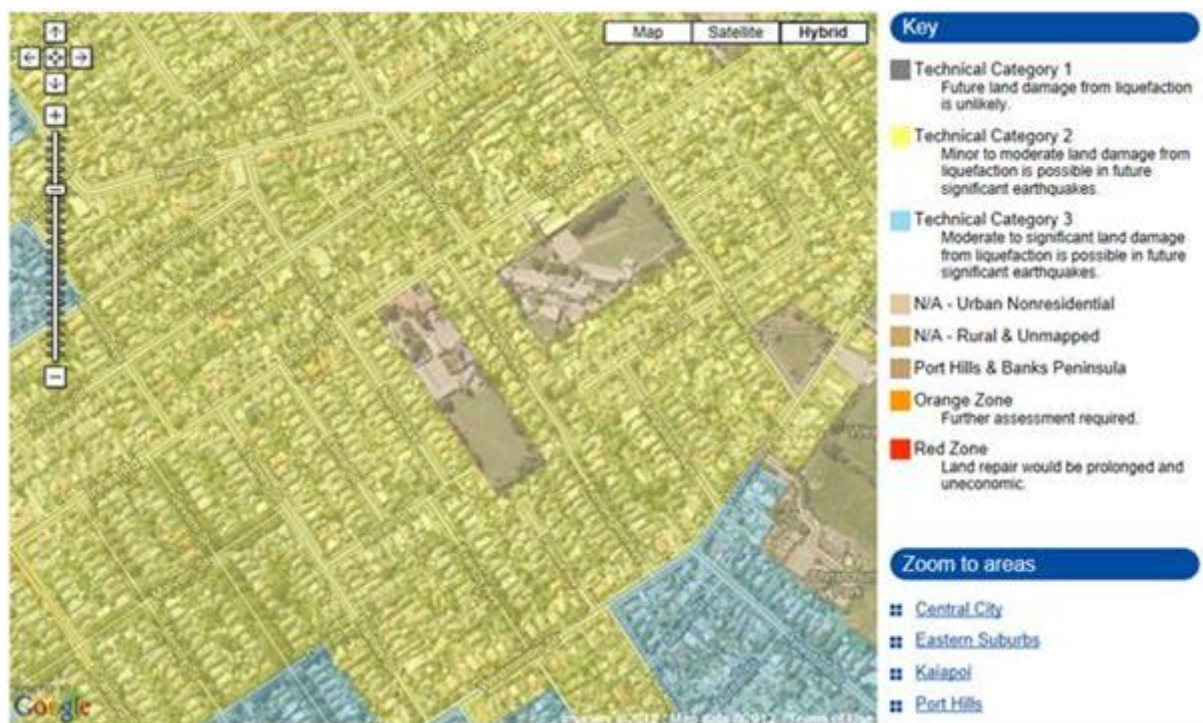
School	1 st July 2010	1 st July 2012	Difference
St Paul's	283	219	- 64
Our Lady of Fatima	260	257	- 3
Total	543	476	- 67

5. Student distribution maps for St Paul's School and Our Lady of Fatima School ... see *Appendix 2*.

Land

The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) have released a guidance document on house repairs and reconstruction following the Canterbury Earthquakes. The guidance document includes a map of Christchurch showing areas zoned in residential foundation technical categories. In accordance with the DBH document the residential areas to the immediate north, west and south of the Our Lady of Fatima School site have been classified as Technical Category 2 (yellow, Figure 1).

Figure 1



The school site has performed very well during the recent earthquakes.

Only minor structural damage has been sustained and no liquefaction or lateral spreading has been observed/reported during the earthquake sequence.

While geotechnical considerations are unlikely to be a significant factor, further investigation will be a Council requirement if development is undertaken on this site.

Buildings

The buildings on the Our Lady of Fatima School site have performed reasonably well and suffered only a minor degree of earthquake damage.

Some buildings have recently undergone earthquake strengthening based on the results of the Opus preliminary engineering investigations. The detailed engineering evaluation (DEE) has commenced and the report is scheduled for completion for the end of October 2013.

A preliminary and not finalised summary of seismic performance notes the following:

<i>Building</i>	<i>Description of limiting criteria</i>	<i>% NBS based on calculated capacity (longitudinal direction)</i>	<i>% NBS based on calculated capacity (transverse direction)</i>
Block 1 Admin – 2nd Storey	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	>100%	48%
Block 1 Admin – 1st Storey	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	95%	95%
Block 1 Classrooms 4, 5 and 6	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	41%	38%
Block 1 Classrooms 1, 2 and 3	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	59%	82%
Block 1 Withdrawal and WC	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	81%	64%
Block 3	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	39%	35%
Block 4	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	82%	88%
Block 5	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	34%	45%
Block 6	Bracing capacity of Shear Walls	52%	73%

As with all diocesan schools, a planned programme of works will be developed to provide a permanent strengthening scheme that will see all school buildings with a seismic capacity of at least 67% NBS.

Anticipated cost of this proposal

The Proprietor would undertake a new building programme of around \$5.5 million.

The cost of earthquake strengthening of the current Our Lady of Fatima School buildings has yet to be quantified. This will be undertaken in the context of the diocesan earthquake strengthening programme for all school buildings at all schools.

It is also noted that if this proposal were to be agreed and adopted it would attract Ministry EDI funding of \$930,000 (assuming all students enrolled at the proposed new school entity). EDI funding is provided whenever a state or state integrated school closes or merges and is to be used to help students transition to their new school and on projects that help raise student achievement. EDI funding is not related to buildings or capital works.

Site plan options

Three possible site plan options are provided ... see *Appendix 3*.

Appendix 3 also provides an example of a current modern learning environment (Clearview Primary School, Rolleston) & a planned modern learning environment (St Joseph's School, Papanui).

Two of these options (options A & B) provide for a maximising of sharing of parish and school facilities, should that be desired by both parties.

All options provide for a new and enlarged church for the Catholic Parish of Mairehau. This possibility of a new and enlarged church at the Innes Road site is on the agenda of the Bishop's advisory body – the Diocesan Strategic Planning Committee.

What does this proposal mean for the two component schools?

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted:

- The integration agreement for St Paul's School would be cancelled (*at an appropriate time*) and the school legally closed.
- The school that is currently Our Lady of Fatima School would grow to a larger Years 1-8 school.
- This would mean that the school on the current Our Lady of Fatima site would be a different entity to that which is there now – it would build upon the best practice of St Paul's and Our Lady of Fatima Schools. It would have a new name (*presumably the same name of the yet to be determined patronal name for the new Catholic Parish of Mairehau*) and would be appropriately and fully supported by its parish - the Catholic Parish of Mairehau.

Is this considered a merger?

As the legislation does not allow for the merger of state integrated schools, this change is being facilitated through the above proposal. An agreement from the Ministry of Education and NZEI will allow the staffing for the new schooling entity to be based on the model of a merger.

This means, if this proposal is agreed and adopted, the teaching positions will be advertised internally first and then if there are vacancies they will be advertised externally. The position of principal, if this proposal was to be adopted, would be advertised nationally. The provisions of the respective employment agreement will apply.

Will class sizes increase if this proposal was adopted?

By way of example only one can see that the projected staffing rolls for 2013 at both schools (and a hypothetical school of 478 students) provide for the following roll-based staffing numbers

School	Roll	Curriculum (Number of Staff)	Management (Number of Staff)	Total Roll- Based Staffing	Students/Curriculum Teacher
Our Lady of Fatima	267	11.1	1.8	12.9	24.1
St Paul's	211	8.9	1.5	10.4	23.7
Hypothetical School	478	20.0	2.2	22.2	23.9

Further matters

A series of further questions and answers are provided ... see *Appendix 4*.

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