

19 November 2108

To the Parent Community

Elmwood Normal School Redevelopment - Overview & Community Consultation

Introduction

Elmwood Normal School is in the early planning stages of redevelopment under the Christchurch Education Renewal Programme.

This programme was established after the 2011 Canterbury earthquakes when the Government announced a \$1billion investment to restore, remodel and rebuild schools in the greater Christchurch area. The intention is to create modern schools with improved facilities to support future focussed teaching and learning.

For ENS the redevelopment is likely to involve demolition of the single-story blocks on Aikmans Road (Rooms 7 to 14), construction of some new learning spaces (not necessarily full replacement), and refurbishment of other parts of the school. The school may well reduce in size (see below).

The Board of Trustees is seeking community input to help guide the redevelopment.

There will be several opportunities for the community to engage as the redevelopment progresses through briefing, planning and design phases. *However, early engagement is the most important – your ideas are much easier to include in the project brief, than to add later when plans are more developed.*

At this initial stage of the process, we would like to gather feedback from you on the following:

- Our school vision and values.
- What attributes are important for an Elmwood graduate to have.
- The future direction of teaching and learning at Elmwood.

So, please get involved – the Board needs your input!

Complete the online feedback form that will be sent to you later this week.

And visit the Board for more information:

- ***Auditorium Foyer: Wednesday 21 November 3.00-5.00pm***
- ***Auditorium Foyer: Friday 23 November 10.00-11.00am***
- ***At the Family Fun Day: Sunday 25 November 10.00am – 1.00pm***

Every form goes into the draw for a \$100 School Uniform Voucher courtesy of ENSCA

The Redevelopment Process

The Ministry of Education redevelopment process has the following steps:

1. Education Brief – we are currently here
2. Master planning
3. Design

4. Construction

The time frame associated with the process is relatively long. The earliest building might start is 2020.

Step 1 - The Education Brief

The Board is currently writing the Education Brief.

The writing group includes BoT parent & staff representatives, a staff member and an independent writer (Dr Anne Hynds – an experienced educator and researcher).

The Brief is an important document that guides the design team. The Brief is not about buildings, it is about the School's vision for teaching and learning into the future.

The Brief will be submitted to the Ministry in early 2019 for approval.

Important Things to Consider

- The Board and community have been encouraged to keep an open mind about the redevelopment. The Education Brief is to focus on the future of teaching and learning, not constraints set by existing buildings or existing uses of the space. The architect will use the Brief to develop a Masterplan to get the most from existing and proposed buildings.
- The Ministry is using the rebuild programme to reduce the amount of classroom space in the city to address excess capacity in the network. For Elmwood, the Ministry will determine a 'grading roll' based on the size of the school zone, this roll determines how much building space the school is entitled to. The School has been seeking to manage its roll downwards by accepting fewer out-of-zone students, in anticipation of the redevelopment. It is likely that the redevelopment will reduce the number of classrooms (i.e., demolished rooms will not be fully replaced). The Board will represent the School's best interests during this discussion.
- Elmwood is a Normal School, one of only two in Christchurch and 27 in New Zealand. 'Normal' is from the French word 'normale' – meaning 'model' or 'teaching' school. We host trainee teachers, visiting lecturers and teachers involved in teacher training. Therefore, the School plays a critical role in teacher training and, in turn, our teachers benefit from collaborative working and mentoring opportunities - all of which is fantastic for our students, our teachers and the wider teaching profession. We have a responsibility to keep developing as an exemplar school.
- The Brief needs to consider the future direction of teaching, particularly given we are a Normal (model) School. The Board does not support 'barn' (multi-class) environments, but considers that new spaces should be flexible enough to enable collaborative teaching and learning.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Elmwood Normal School
Board of Trustees**