

To the Cashmere High School Community

As many of you will know, earlier this year the Cashmere High School Board of Trustees consulted with its community on proposed changes to the school's enrolment zone boundaries. The proposed changes, to reduce the size of the zone, were needed because of recent unprecedented growth in our in-zone student roll.

This week the Secretary for Education approved the Board's proposed zone changes and the Board of Trustees adopted this amended zone at our meeting on Wednesday 16 May. The new zone boundaries will take effect from 1 January 2019.

This was a very difficult decision for the Board to make on behalf of the school community, but it was necessary because our facilities and school grounds are not able to cope with continued student roll growth. Most of the recent roll growth has come from in-zone enrolments: 95% of our students come from in-zone and this is one of the highest proportions of in-zone student enrolments across the country. In 2012 the school's roll was 1674, and this year it exceeds 2000. We must take all in-zone enrolments and so reducing the size of the zone is the only mechanism we have for managing roll size.

We are in the middle of a substantial post-earthquake school rebuild programme. The Ministry of Education's rebuild programme is based on a roll of 1700 and so the Board has had to make decisions around zone boundaries.

The Board's decision-making was guided by a number of principles: geographic proximity, the strong relationships in the Community of Learning, and the zone boundaries of contributing schools. The Ministry also provided us with a range of information including demographic data. During April we consulted with the community, including emailing the parents and caregivers of students, discussing the proposal with contributing schools and holding a public meeting.

After carefully considering the submissions made, and the requirements of the Education Act 1989, the Board sought and gained the approval of the Secretary for Education.

Cashmere High School is guided by its 'COVE' values of Citizenship, Opportunity, Vibrancy and Excellence. We look forward to continuing to embrace our diverse community, placing priority on our goals of high academic achievement for all students, the fulfilment of our Maori students' aspirations and the well-being of our students and staff. .

The following questions and answers provide more detail, and more detail about the amended zone can be found on the Enrolments page of our website, www.cashmere.school.nz.

Kind regards
Geordie Hooft
Chair, Board of Trustees

When will the changes take effect?

The changes will take effect from 1 January 2019 and will affect all pre-enrolments for 2019. Enrolments for entry to Year 9 for 2019 close on 27 July 2018.

If I have a child at Cashmere High now and my address becomes out-of-zone next year, can my other children come to the school?

Yes. If an address becomes out-of-zone through this change, younger brothers and sisters of current students living at that address will be accepted.

Where can I find the new zone boundaries?

The boundaries are on the Enrolments page of the Cashmere High School website, under CHS zone.

<http://www.cashmere.school.nz/enrolment/CHS-zone.html>

Can you tell me a bit more about how the decision was made?

A number of guiding principles were used when considering potential zone boundaries:

- What made geographical sense (e.g. proximity of homes to the school) and boundaries (e.g. natural boundaries such as Brougham Street).
- Our Community of Learning with local contributing schools. We have a strong relationship and are keen to maintain the positive working relationships with all these schools (Beckenham, Opawa, St Marks, St Martins, Waltham, and Diamond Harbour). They remain within our zone.
- The current school zones of our contributing schools (e.g. Christchurch South Intermediate), so disruption for students progressing onto secondary school is minimised.

The Ministry also provided us with statistical analysis indicating the likely reduction of our student roll based on different scenarios.

Consultation included families of current students, the main contributing schools (i.e. prospective students of the school), and the Boards of other schools that could be affected by the proposed enrolment scheme (e.g. neighbouring secondary schools).