

# SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON



## *Ko Te Korero Karoro*

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Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education  
Private Bag 18041  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

cc. Kathryn Palmer  
Acting Regional Manager  
Ministry of Education  
PO Box 2522  
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

23 March 2013

Dear Hon Hekia Parata

### **Re: Your interim decision that South New Brighton School should merge with Central New Brighton School effective January 2014**

The Board's overall response to the interim decision is that it does not support the merger as it currently stands. We do not believe that the interim decision is the best option to: at a minimum maintain or at best improve student achievement within our wider eastside community. We believe that the changes required through the merger (as proposed) will put the great education model currently on offer at our school at significant risk.

### **Continuing School**

We believe that throughout this document and our earlier submission, we offer a compelling argument to retain the status quo. However, if faced with no alternative we could look to support your interim decision if changes were made to it. The Board of Trustees believe that South New Brighton School should be identified as the **continuing school** not just the continuing site (156A Education Act, sub section 3A(a) – refer Appendix C). As communicated in our earlier submission, and based on evidence to date, we are of the opinion that very few families from Central New Brighton will choose to send their children to the South New Brighton School site.

We as a Board have worked hard to seek evidence to support our argument. The evidence we have is:

- The Central New Brighton Board and the Central New Brighton community have advised us (verbally during meetings and within their submission to you) that they will not send their children to the site for various reasons:
  - Distance required to travel: the vast majority of Central's population are located on the North Side of Central ie. nearer to North New Brighton School or on the Wainoni / Aranui side of the river ie. nearer to Aranui or Wainoni' primary schools, or the newly proposed Super School should it go ahead
  - Natural land boundaries ie. river, estuary and sea
  - The fact that it is not a natural route ie. we are a destination, not a thoroughfare, etc





- It should be noted that we also requested the Ministry to assist us by conducting an impartial survey of Central's population to see where families will send their children should the merger go ahead. Unfortunately the Ministry were not prepared to assist.
- We understand and acknowledge that this is an emotional time for families involved in the proposed merger and that often statements are made without rational thought being applied. As a period of time has changed since the proposals were made and people have now had an opportunity to think carefully about where they may send their children, etc we believe an impartial survey would have been very helpful at this point and time. Upon reviewing Central New Brighton's latest survey, we note their final question is in relation to where people will choose to send their children should the merger go ahead. We invite you to look carefully at these survey results.

The South New Brighton Board and school community do not believe that our school community should have to endure significant change to cater for just a very small number of children. Identifying South New Brighton as the **continuing school** would therefore limit the amount of change required and minimise the fiscal impact on the Ministry.

South New Brighton School is well positioned to welcome any new students choosing to attend our school. The Board and Leadership within our school have led the merger process in an open, transparent and honest way. We have presented the facts as they have been provided to us and we believe that this proactive leadership paves the way for a very successful transition for all members of Central New Brighton choosing to join the continuing school (South) through merger.

A number of current Board members have indicated that they will stand for the upcoming elections. Should the community choose to vote some current members back in then we will continue to lead in a proactive way. Rest assured, that despite election outcomes, the current Board will work hard to ensure that our community are well positioned to make the process successful for all involved.

### Green Hat Thinking

We are aware of the content within the submission from Freeville School and we firmly believe that their Alternative Option 2 (to merge Freeville, North New Brighton and Central New Brighton Schools) should be further investigated. The rationale provided and the problems this option would solve are very definitely endorsed by our Board.

When we recently met with the Board of Central, we spoke to this option. The Central Board communicated that this alternate option would 'tick a number of boxes' for their community. **We firmly believe, that should the Ministry choose to investigate this option (we see it as a must) it would secure 'buy in' from each of the three communities.** Community members would work together and focus on the positives that will come from this option. We are positive, that a new '21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment' on a neutral site such as Rawhiti or other such option, would be welcomed by each of the three communities and create a positive feel for all involved.





Representatives from each of the four Boards (Freeville, Central, North and South) met to apply Green Hat Thinking once your initial proposals for education in the eastside had been issued. During that meeting, **23 alternate proposals were discussed. In each instance, all of the representatives agreed that South New Brighton School should remain as a continuing school – no merger.**

### Decision time

We believe that we provide a very compelling argument for South New Brighton School to remain as it is or at least be identified as the continuing school. However, should you decide following review of all submissions that the merger as proposed should go ahead, we strongly request a change in date from January 2014 to January 2015. This is due to:

- As explained to you at our meeting earlier this month, this community has been hit hard. Issues with insurers have meant that families have been unable to return to their homes within a reasonable time frame (I can attest to this as I am personally working very hard and proactively to get our rebuild underway). In situations like this, school is providing a stable environment for members of the community. Our community believes, further change during 2013 / 2014 would bring additional stress to family lives.
- A number of our staff live within this community and are facing severe challenges with housing and face issues as stated above.
- We realise that your initial document was a proposal only, however our staff and community believed that change would not happen until January 2016. The Board acknowledge and agree that 2016 could be too long but we also believe 2014 is simply too soon.
- This later timeline would allow staff at both Central and South who may be nearing retirement to finish their time without having to reapply for a position within this stage of their career.
- The timeline would allow Central New Brighton School a dignified exit from Central New Brighton and allow them to celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary – we understand planning has been underway for some time.
- Whilst requesting the extended timeline, we also request that the MOE Appointed Board take Governance of the 'new' school as soon as possible but no later than October 2013, and work to appoint the Principal of the new school, establish staffing for the beginning of 2015 and work with the community to determine the values and vision to be included within the new school, etc.
- **We believe that in order for a merger as proposed to be successful for all involved, both school communities need time to adjust and we are sure the extension of time will mean that the Appointed Board can achieve the best result possible.**



I would like to draw your attention to the appendices included for your review:

- Appendix A Zone proposals: Central & South New Brighton proposed merger
- Appendix B The Board's process to your interim decision
- Appendix C Section 156A of the Education Act 1989: our understanding of a 'continuing school'.
- Appendix D Student distribution maps provided by MOE

Minister, we appreciate the time spent with our Board earlier this month and we are glad we had the opportunity to share our concerns directly to you.

Should you require clarity on any point within this document or within our earlier submission then please contact the writer in the first instance. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Clark (Mrs)  
Chairperson

E: [board@snbs.school.nz](mailto:board@snbs.school.nz)

## Appendix A – Zone Proposals: Central & South New Brighton proposed merger



# Zone Proposals : Central & South New Brighton proposed merger

## Introduction:

Zoning was introduced to help manage overcrowding of schools and schools can be directed to put these in place. SNBS was one of those, the latest being in 2008-9. They are to be reviewed and reported on to the Ministry of Education annually. If the school's roll dropped and overcrowding is not a problem, the Enrolment Scheme and zoning could be dropped if agreement is made. With an Enrolment Scheme, it has to be managed within set guidelines, which SNBS does as a collective with several other Christchurch schools. This provides consistency of application date closures and acceptance / ballot dates across our Christchurch Primary Schools. A school has to establish the number of places available and has to manage the process carefully. While the MoE will provide staffing, if schools take in too many 'Out of Zone' students, the school could be liable to provide the extra teaching spaces.

When an Enrolment Scheme is introduced, it is done so with consultation with the other schools in the area. Most zones tend to be placed at the mid-way point and often follows natural boundaries. Once these zones are established, all the students currently enrolled at the school are titled 'In Zone'. Therefore, those families living *outside* the established zone have to apply for 'Out of Zone' applications for their other siblings (i.e., they have no right of automatic entry). It puts them further up the priority list but gives no guarantees. If the school is full and 'In Zone' applications (which are automatic entries) continue, there may not be places for any (or some) of the siblings, therefore splitting families. Sometimes the MoE acknowledge families living in households out of the zone by saying any future sibling(s) will be deemed 'In-Zone' if the address remains the same.

We have developed three proposals for new zoning for SNBS based on the most current information ie 1 July 2012 roll estimate of 120 for CNB. Not knowing exactly which households the students live in, the number of households have been averaged out against the roll number: % of new roll is based on 470 SNBS (estimated peak for 2013) students plus new CNB students. Statistically this should be fairly accurate as our peak roll for 2014 is estimated at 505 plus CNB students.

## Proposal 1:

This cuts across at Hood Street (both sides). It would include 9 households from Central School, ie 11.5 %. This would approximately equate to 13 students. Once joining SNBS this would equate to approx 2.7 % of the new roll. *At Hood Street, families would be equal distance to both North and South New Brighton Schools.*

## Proposal 2:

This follows Hawke Street (both sides), the street Central New Brighton School is sited. This would include 12 households 'in zone' ie approximately 15.3%. This would approximately equate to 18 students. Once joining SNBS this would equate to approx 3.6 % of the new roll. *Families from the top of Hawke Street would be approximately 2.5km from South New Brighton and 1.6km from North New Brighton.*



## Zone Proposals : Central & South New Brighton proposed merger

### Proposal 3:

This follows Longsdale Street (both sides) which runs before Rawhiti Domain and is the same street as New Brighton Catholic School. This would include 24 households, ie 30.7 %. This would approximately equate to 36 students. Once joining SNBS this would equate to approx 7.2 % of the new roll. *Families from the top of Longsdale Street would be approximately 2.7km from South New Brighton and 1.4km from North New Brighton.*

*N.B. Proposal data based on July 2012 Central New Brighton Roll Return where 78 households were identified. This is the latest 'dot' map available to us. Numbers of estimated students are however related to the present estimated 2013 roll of 120 students (1 higher than the actual roll at the time ) so numbers are pretty identical between 2012 and 2013.*

### Other points of interest:

43.5% of the households are situated west of the Avon River in the Aranui area.

Historical data from Central New Brighton School roll returns since 2009 shows the following averaged data where households are placed into the 3 proposed zone areas. Student numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

Proposal #	2009 (roll of 177)	2010 (roll of 180)	2012 (roll of 120)
1	5.5% (10 students)	7.5% (13.5 students)	11.5% (13 students)
2	13% (23 students)	16% (29 students)	15% (18 students)
3	22% (39 students)	24.5% (44 students)	31% (36 students)
West of Avon River	64.5% (114 students)	53% (95 students)	43.5% (52 students)
North of Longsdale Street	14% (25 students)	22.5% (41 students)	25.5% (31 students)

*N.B. Actual 1 March Roll for 2012 is 119, one off the estimated 120. This we have been told is almost identical to 1 March 2013 roll.*

**With regard to establishing an Enrolment Scheme and the associated zone if the proposed merger is to proceed, we believe parents from Hawke Street north would prefer to send their children to the nearest school. Access for them is a great deal easier and suited to transport provision and normal traffic flows. It is within walking distance for many, especially if access was made through Rawhiti Domain, where distances would be nearly halved.**

2011 data not included due to population movement after 22 Feb earthquake.





## Appendix B – The Board’s process and approach to the interim decision

# The Board's process and approach to the Interim Decision





## Appendix C – Section 156A of the Education Act 1989: our understanding of a ‘continuing school’.

## Section 156A of the Education Act

### 156A Minister may merge schools

(1) Subject to [sections 156B](#) and [157](#), the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, merge 1 or more State schools (**merging schools**) that are not integrated schools with another State school (**the continuing school**) that is not an integrated school, if satisfied that—

(a) each board of a school concerned has made reasonable efforts to consult the parents of students (other than adult students) enrolled full-time at the school about the proposed merger; and

(b) the consultation that has in fact taken place has been adequate in all the circumstances; and

(c) the creation of a single school by the proposed merger is appropriate in the circumstances.

(2) A notice under subsection (1) takes effect on a day (no earlier than the end of the term after the term during which the notice is published) specified in the notice, and has effect as follows:

(a) the merging schools are part of the continuing school:

(b) if the continuing school and each merging school are not already administered by a single board,—

(i) the board of each merging school is dissolved; and

(ii) all rights, assets, liabilities, and debts of each merging school are vested in the board of the continuing school;

(c) the continuing school is a school of the class specified in the notice and provides education for the student class levels specified in the notice.

(3) A notice under subsection (1) does not affect the name of the continuing school.

**(3A) Before a notice under subsection (1) takes effect, the Minister must give notice in the *Gazette* of whether, during the period between a date specified in the notice and the date on which new trustees take office following an election (in this section called the **interim period**), the board of the continuing school is to be—**

**(a) the board of the continuing school plus co-opted trustees representing each merging school, as provided for in subsection (3B); or**

**(b) a board appointed by the Minister, in which case subsection (3C) applies.**

**(3B) If the notice under subsection (3A) provides that the board of the continuing school must include co-opted trustees representing each merging school,—**

**(a) the board of the continuing school must, within 28 days after the notice under subsection (3A), co-opt at least 1 trustee in respect of each of the merging schools, so that each merging school is represented on the board; and**

**(b) each of those co-opted trustees holds office until the end of the interim period (unless replaced earlier); and**



## Section 156A of the Education Act

(c) [section 94C](#) (which limits the co-option and appointment of trustees) does not apply to trustees co-opted for an interim period.

(3C) If the notice under subsection (3A) provides that the board of the continuing school is to be appointed by the Minister,—

(a) the notice must specify the constitution of the board during the interim period, including how many trustees (if any) the board may co-opt; and

(b) the Minister is not bound by [section 94](#) in determining the constitution of the board.

(3D) When a board is appointed by the Minister,—

(a) the trustees of the continuing school go out of office at the close of the day before the start of the interim period; and

(b) the trustees appointed by the Minister to the board of the continuing school take office on the date of the start of the interim period.

(3E) During an interim period, the board of the continuing school may make decisions and exercise powers both for the purposes of the continuing school before the merger and for the purpose of providing and preparing for the continuing school after the merger has taken effect.

(4) Unless it was (immediately before the merger took effect) a combined board established under [section 110](#), then, subject to subsection (6), the board of the continuing school must hold elections for a new board on a day that is not later than 3 months after the day the merger took effect.

(4A) [Repealed]

(5) If the board of the continuing school is required by subsection (4) to hold elections for a new board, all its elected, appointed, and co-opted trustees holding office immediately before the election day go out of office on the close of the day before the day on which the newly elected trustees are to take office.

(6) If the merger takes effect after 31 October in the year before an election year and before 31 December in that election year, the board of the continuing school does not have to hold an election until the next election year.

## Appendix D – Student distribution maps provided by MOE



# Central New Brighton and South New Brighton Student Distribution At March 2009



Key:  
Green = South New Brighton School  
Blue = Central New Brighton School

Windsor School (Christchurch)

Parkview School

North New Brighton School

Freeville School

Burwood School

Wainoni School

New Brighton Catholic School (Chch)

Chishallwood Intermediate

Central New Brighton School

Avondale School (Christchurch)

Nova Montessori School

St James School (Aranui)

Aranui School (Christchurch)

Aranui High School

Linwood North School

South New Brighton School

Bromley School

Tamariki School

St Anne's School (Woolston)

Barnford School

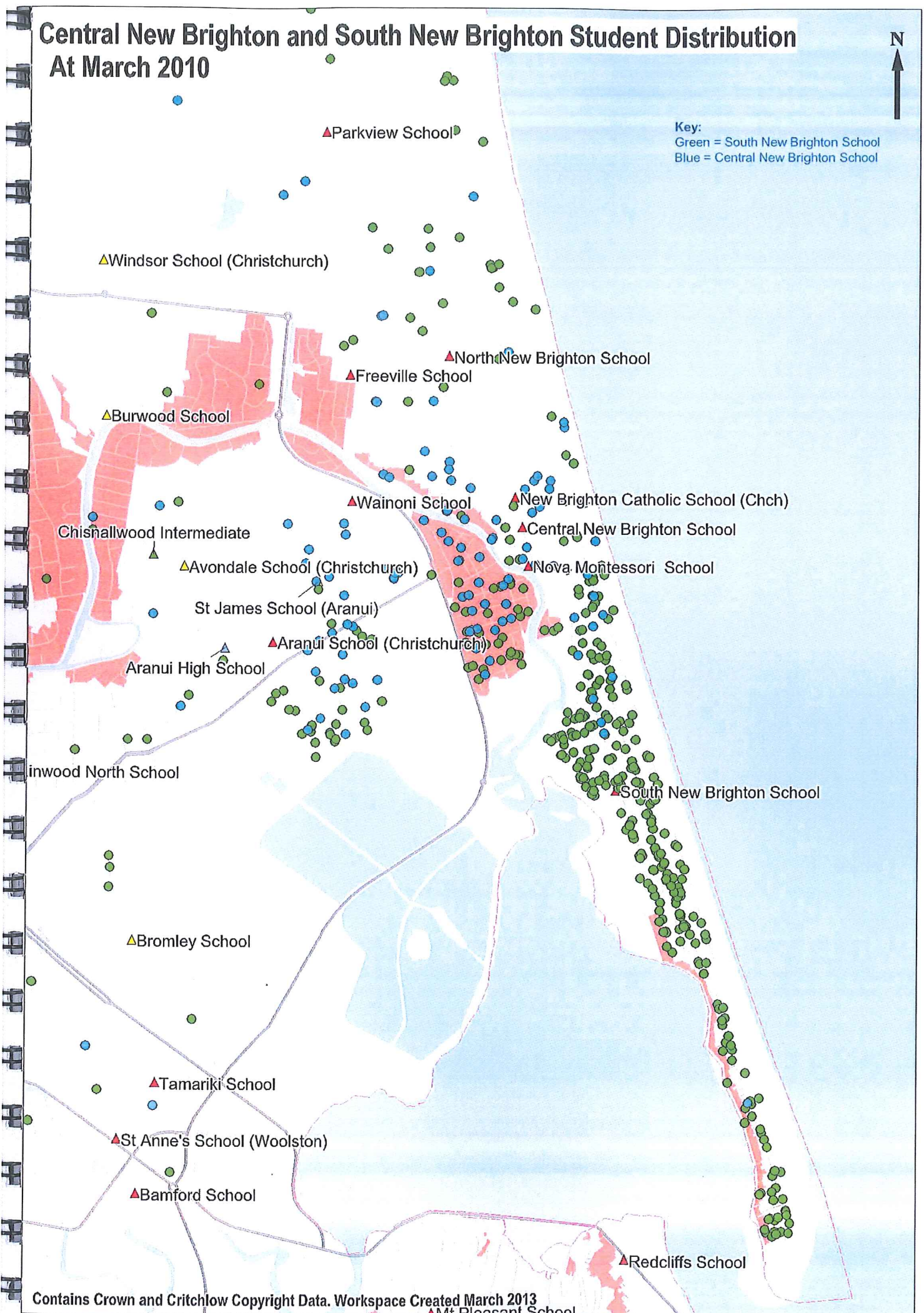
Redcliffs School



# Central New Brighton and South New Brighton Student Distribution At March 2010



Key:  
Green = South New Brighton School  
Blue = Central New Brighton School





# Central New Brighton and South New Brighton Student Distribution At March 2012



Key:  
Green = South New Brighton School  
Blue = Central New Brighton School

