



Submission to:
Hon Hekia Parata, Minister of
Education.

In response to the proposal for
closure of Redcliffs School.

Heathcote Valley School
61 Bridle Path Road, Heathcote Valley, Christchurch 8022

Mt Pleasant School
82 Major Hornbrook Road, Mt Pleasant, Christchurch 8081

Our Lady Star of the Sea School
45 Colenso Street, Sumner, Christchurch 8081

Redcliffs School
Truro Street, Sumner, Christchurch 8081

Sumner School
Colenso Street, Sumner, Christchurch 8081

Introduction

- The Bays Learning Community Cluster is a strong and collaborative community of five full primary schools.
- The Bays Cluster strongly supports the return of Redcliffs School to Redcliffs.
- The Bays Cluster does not support the Minister of Education's proposal for closure of Redcliffs School.
- Redcliffs School is an important member of the Bays Cluster; the cluster is made much stronger and more effective with Redcliffs School's membership.
- Redcliffs School is a vital part of the Bays Cluster, particularly with its geographical location being at the central point of the Bays Cluster.

Bays Learning Cluster – Community of Schools

The Bays Cluster is a thriving cluster of five full-primary schools located in the eastern bays area of Christchurch: Heathcote Valley; Mt Pleasant; Our Lady Star of the Sea; Redcliffs and Sumner Schools. In 2008 we formed what had been an informal network of the five neighbouring primary schools, into the Bays Cluster. Each school is proudly distinct with their specific points of difference, whilst effectively collaborating to share best practice, professional development and resources. The wider communities are proud of their schools and also value the Bays Cluster establishment.

In 2011 when the Christchurch Education Renewal Plan was developed, the Bays Cluster was the only pre-existing cluster that was to remain in its already established membership format. The principals in the Bays Cluster have presented at local and international conferences on the topic of learning community/cluster collaboration. The Redcliffs School principal has had writing published on this topic.

Recently we have entered initial discussion with the Ministry of Education as we look to become an IES Community of Schools; and an expression of interest has been submitted. Our ongoing track record of sharing expertise and supporting each other to raise achievement for children fits well with the intentions of the Investing in Educational Success government initiative.

The Bays Cluster purpose is:

To collaborate and share best practice in order to create opportunities for the Bays community of students, families and staff, that will enhance learning, progress and achievement.

Current cluster events and activities include:

- Professional Learning Groups for staff middle leaders and senior leaders, guided by external expert facilitator
- Cluster staff-meetings four times per year, including trips to each school
- SENCO network group
- Office staff network group
- Sharing of best practice in modern learning practices; teacher visits to one another's classrooms, observations, sharing of resources, trial findings etc

- Sharing of National Standards results, benchmarks and now planning moderation meetings to achieve consistency of OTJ assessments across the cluster schools.
- Year 7&8 cluster enrichment programme in STEM subjects
- Annual Bays Cluster Cultural Festival, Music Festival, Rock Band Night
- Annual Bays Cluster Speech Competition
- Pooling funds to employ a Cluster Sports Co-ordinator (with financial assistance from Sport Canterbury and Westpac)
- Bays Cluster Orchestra
- Cluster Sports tournaments and events
- Cluster Parent information evenings, for example; Cyber-safety, Nutrition, MLE
- Cluster teacher only days
- Staff social gatherings
- Combined Board professional development
- Annual 2 day Tech-Fest for students
- Combined principal professional development



- ★ Heathcote Valley, Mt Pleasant, Redcliffs, and Sumner Schools
- ★ Our Lady Star of the Sea School

Two Concept Proposals

The Bays Learning Cluster would like to seize upon the unique opportunities that Redcliffs School's return to site offers to our communities. The following proposals are a response to identified needs within our community of schools. They also offer a vision of the future that builds upon established strengths and cultures.

Most importantly, this is an opportunity to enhance the quality of education and achievement outcomes for our students throughout our five schools. These proposals are not just about new facilities. This is an opportunity to change the dynamics of our community of schools with a shared vision of teaching, learning, and our local Bays' culture within the broader culture of Aotearoa.

1. Bays Community Learning Hub

An important feature of the Redcliffs School site is that it is the centrally located position of the cluster. Prior to its temporary relocation in 2011, Redcliffs School was most often used as the meeting point for cluster activities. Despite being located reasonably close together 'as the crow flies' the five schools are not quick to travel between. The drive from Sumner to Mt Pleasant and Heathcote Valley will take 20 minutes, and much longer in peak traffic times.

Redcliffs School is the ideal location for after-school staff meetings and student activities, as it is more accessible for the whole Bays cluster community.

When undertaking a review of property requirements at Redcliffs School, should a return to site be planned; we propose that serious consideration be given to building a **Bays Cluster Learning Hub**:

- **A multi-purpose, flexible building for learning**
- **A place for cluster events**
- **Professional learning meeting room for cluster staff and PLD**
- **Cluster Year 7&8 Technology teaching and learning space**
- **Classroom space for cluster students' special needs groups, enrichment (GaTE) groups, performing arts groups**
- **Auditorium, recording and editing space for the whole cluster to make use of.**

A central purpose-built facility that will allow combined or staged professional learning and development opportunities for educators from all cluster schools.

Model for Teacher Professional learning

The Bays cluster is committed to ensuring today's students are prepared for tomorrow's world. As part of this commitment we recognise the importance of teachers and the role they play in providing experiences that help students become scientifically and technologically literate.

The learning hub will provide a range of professional development opportunities that are responsive to contemporary learners needs and promote confidence and provide inspiration to teachers bringing a new world of possibility to their classrooms.

Commonalities of need and interest will be used as a platform for collaboration across the cluster.

Concept Features:

1. Redcliffs School taking a lead role around facilitation and administration of professional learning
2. Cost-effective (travel free) way to deliver PLD to staff across the whole cluster
3. Opportunity for each school within the cluster to drive professional development using their own strengths and providing student achievement benefits to the entire cluster

Like all members of the Bays Cluster, Redcliffs School has important, specific areas of strength that contribute to the overall success of the Bays community of schools.

Redcliffs School is able to provide support, professional learning and guidance to the members of the cluster in a range of areas, including:

Educational outcomes for Maori students: Redcliffs School is well regarded throughout the Bays community for its excellent practices in embedding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It is able to share its special features and skill base to support the Bays schools in areas such as: whanau hui and consultation; success for Maori students as Maori using the principles of the *Ka Hikitia* document; school-wide tikanga Maori implementation; and kapa haka expertise. This too is an area where Redcliffs School is able to offer leadership, mentoring, professional learning courses, resources and full support to neighbouring schools.

Case Study (Redcliffs)

Redcliffs School has well documented strengths in cultural responsiveness and supporting the needs of priority learners. Redcliffs could lead cluster wide PD in this area.

Cluster Vision for Cultural Responsiveness

- Fully engaged whanau involved in decision making in many aspects of school life.
- Grow and develop productive partnerships with Runaka, Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke as well as Ngai Tahu whanui
- Te Reo is used and valued as part of daily interactions across the schools - teacher, student, whanau, community
- Cross cluster Maori Achievement Focus group established and working well to implement cluster strategic plan for Cultural Responsiveness.
- Students identify and value the importance of our dual cultural heritage in Aotearoa.
- Development of Te Rae Kura Cultural Learning Group
- Increased collaboration, and strengthened shared practices around the cluster cultural responsiveness goals.
- Data/evidence shared to help inform next steps
- Development of school and community meetings and whanau hui to ensure parents and caregivers regularly have opportunities to determine on-going needs of tamariki
- RTL and ECE engagement in Maori achievement focus group
- Increased use of Te Reo across all areas - students, staff, community
- Increased knowledge and use of tikanga in our cluster

Educational outcomes for students with special needs: Redcliffs School has more ORS funded students enrolled than any of the other Bays schools, and a wealth of long-term experience and success to draw on in this area. Systematic implementation of best practice in provision for special needs students is an area where Redcliffs School is able to offer leadership, mentoring, professional learning courses, resources and full support to neighbouring schools.

Performing Arts: It is widely acknowledged that Redcliffs School has a well-embedded culture of success in the Arts. Biennial school productions are a major focus of the school year, integrating a thematic cross-curricular learning approach. The Bays community looks forward to attending these productions, with the other four Bays cluster schools traditionally being invited to an exclusive preview. The two most recent productions, in 2012 and 2014 have been located at the Sumner School hall.

Redcliffs School has an extensive music programme for its students. A combination of itinerant music teachers in a wide range of instruments, school choirs, and the Christchurch School of Music (CSM) outreach programme offers students of all levels the opportunity to learn music. Recently Redcliffs School has assisted Sumner School to start up an orchestra and the CSM concert band programme. The Arts is a far-reaching area that the school is able to offer further leadership and assistance in throughout the Bays cluster.

2. Bays Community Technology Hub:

Community Maker-space; Inquire, Collaborate, Innovate/Make/Create

The Bays Cluster Schools have identified a need for relevant technology education to be delivered locally and cost-effectively. At the present time, students bus long distances to study technology that is largely divorced from their learning needs.

The purpose of this new facility will be to integrate technology learning with localised curriculum needs of the cluster.

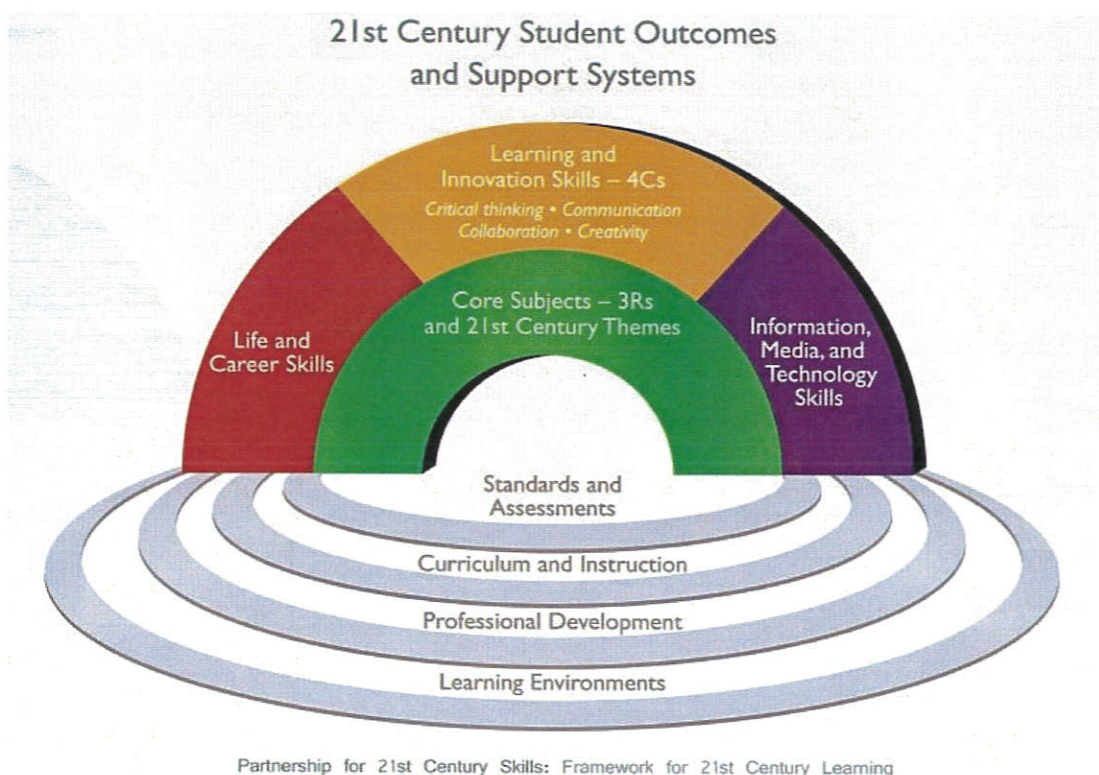
Concept Features:

1. Centralised provision of technology that engages with cluster teaching and learning to provide enhanced and connected learning
2. Employment of expert technology teachers who can combine technology learning with inquiry learning
3. State of the art facility that makes use of current technology opportunities
4. Minibus services between schools to eliminate learning downtime
5. The ability to use the facility in conjunction with other curriculum needs
6. Open for students, parents, community (drawing on and using the wealth of community expertise and experience)
7. Adults and children learning together
8. Tools for making e.g. 3D printers, robotics equipment, laser cutters, rapid prototype printers, kilns and design space.
9. Teacher professional learning sessions
10. Design thinking and inquiry learning underpinning all learning experiences
11. Facility can be hired as a community space outside of school hours (sustainability)

12. Workshops available after school for children/parents/teachers/community to learn together.
13. Sponsorship and partnership possibilities will be explored with a view to supporting technology resourcing through on-going funding.

The rationale for the creation of this new facility is that a makerspace will develop 21st Century Skills - particularly critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and problem solving. It will provide students with opportunities to engage in constructivist/deep learning. The New Zealand Curriculum identifies many opportunities within a makerspace environment to engage in effective pedagogy and for students to develop a wide range of competencies.

The purpose of this new facility will be to integrate technology learning with localised authentic learning opportunities. The aim will be to use place-based problem solving, using community issues to solve and create solutions for.

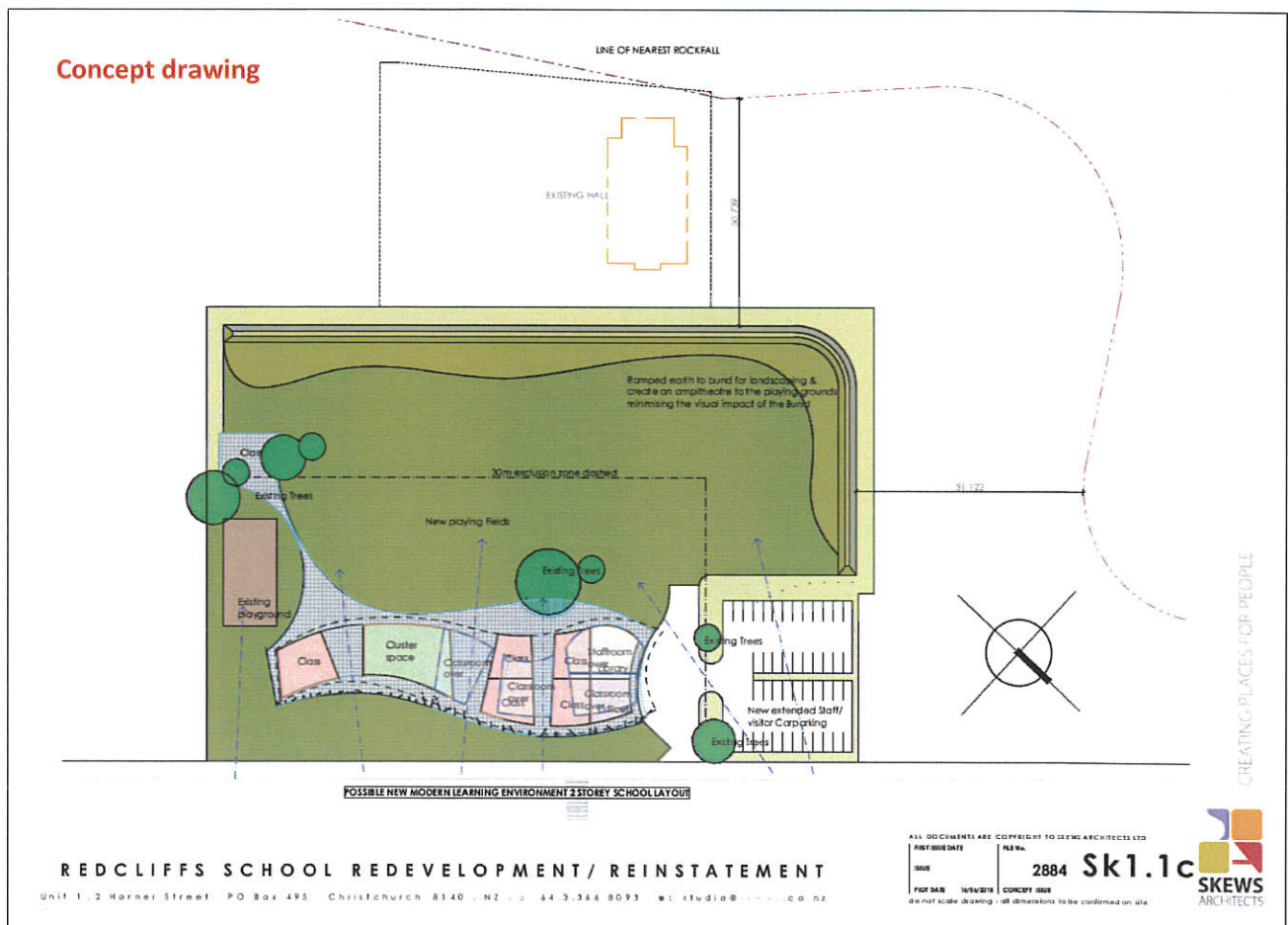


Source: <http://www.p21.org/>





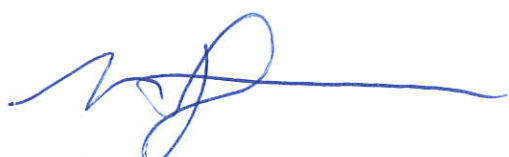



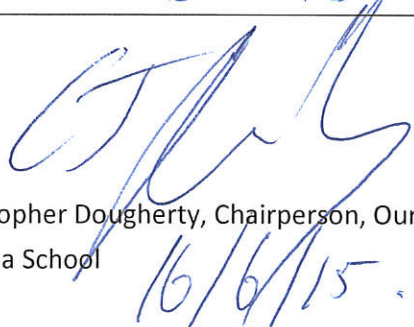
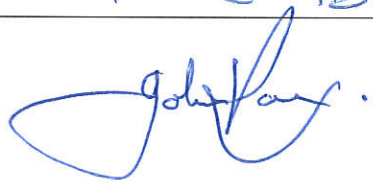
Opportunities for Bays Community Collaboration

The space will be available outside of school hours for students/parents/teachers/community to use. Whanau will be able to learn alongside their children in a creative maker space with cutting edge technology available. Teachers can also build their confidence and skill level with technology and creative making processes.

The space is not solely a science lab, woodwork room, computer lab or art room, but it may contain elements found in all of these familiar spaces. It will be designed to accommodate a wide range of



Endorsed by the Bays Cluster School Boards of Trustees:

 Craig Jones, Chairperson, Redcliffs School Date: 26/6/15	 Kim Alexander, Principal, Redcliffs School Date: 26/06/2015
 Yvonne Hall, Chairperson, Sumner School Date: 12/6/15	 Stuart Cameron, Principal, Sumner School Date: 10/6/15
 Marty Anderson, Chairperson, Mt Pleasant School Date:	 Chris Nord, Principal, Mt Pleasant School Date: 18-06-2015
 Rich Matla, Chairperson, Heathcote Valley School Date: 10-6-15	 Rob Kavanagh, Acting Principal, Heathcote Valley School Date: 10-6-15
 Christopher Dougherty, Chairperson, Our Lady Star of the Sea School Date: 16/6/15	 John Kane, Principal, Our Lady Star of the Sea School Date: 16/6/2015