



ALBANY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear parents and caregivers

As you will be aware we have been through an extended process this year, completing community consultation regarding potential changes to our school enrolment zone. The population of Albany is growing and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. The Ministry of Education have told us that our school's home zone no longer meets the needs of our school. The Ministry view is that without a change to reduce our home zone Albany Primary School will not be able to meet this need and runs the risk of overcrowding. This has been more than evident already this year and even with the 4 temporary classroom's currently being delivered and confirmation of a permanent block of at least 8 classrooms to be built in the next two to three years, we need to also look at alternative means of controlling our student roll. This includes the prospect of a new school being actively investigated currently by the MOE.

The M.O.E. acknowledge that any amendment to a home zone is not taken lightly. However, our Board of Trustees have been directed by the Director of Education for Auckland, Isabel Evans, to amend our current enrolment scheme as per **Section 11 (H)5 of the Education Act which states:**

(5) If the Secretary approves a proposed enrolment scheme for a State school, the school's board must pass a resolution adopting the scheme as soon as practicable.

We are required therefore to reduce the south east zone boundary to follow SH18 (effectively removing the Unsworth Heights area). This decision has been made **contrary to the Board recommendation** which was based on community consultation. The reason provided by the MOE for this amendment is to reduce the likelihood of overcrowding at Albany Primary School.

While we are very disappointed that we are unable to keep Unsworth Heights in our zone, we do acknowledge that the M.O.E have accepted our request for transitional arrangements (known as "grand parenting"). This allows siblings (brothers and sisters) of any students enrolled at Albany School **before the new zone comes into place on the first day of Term 3 2020 (20th July 2020)** and living within the area to be removed from the current home zone, to enrol at Albany School (as if they were in zone). This arrangement will not apply to:

- children of parents who move into the removed area **subsequent to the adoption** of the enrolment scheme boundary amendment (i.e. the start of Term 3 2020) and
- children of parents currently living in the removed area and who move out of the area subsequent to the adoption of the enrolment scheme boundary amendment

The Director of Education has also made the decision that the overlap with the Pinehill School zone remains the same. Again this decision was contrary to the Board recommendation.

The Board recognises this decision is not the preferred outcome for our school and community and share in your disappointment. However, we reiterate that while the Board has done everything within its power to work towards a more favourable outcome, we have been directed to adopt this scheme in accordance with the Education Act (as above clause).

The full details of the zone changes and sibling enrolment are available on the school website <http://www.albany.school.nz> under enrolments.

We wish to thank all parents who have been involved in this process for your total support for our school, as well as our Upper Harbour Local Board members, Erica Stanford (MP) and Honourable Paula Bennett (MP).

If you have any questions regarding this letter, the new zone, or sibling enrolments please email BOT@albany.school.nz.

As this is a decision made by the MOE any correspondence **regarding this decision** should be sent directly to MOE, Katrina Casey, Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support.