

HALSWELL/WIGRAM AREA STRATEGY SUBMISSION

NAME: Mike Nolan (Manager)
on behalf of
Bishop Barry Jones (Catholic Diocese of Christchurch),
Proprietor of Our Lady of the Assumption School

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MY INTEREST IN HALSWELL/WIGRAM EDUCATION IS:

This submission is made on behalf of the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, Bishop Barry Jones. Bishop Jones is Proprietor Our Lady of the Assumption School (89A Sparks Road, Hoon Hay). Our Lady of the Assumption School (Hoon Hay) is one of the schools in the *network* of schools that the Ministry of Education has identified as being in the group of schools most likely to be affected by the expected population growth in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy.

Two other Catholic schools identified as being in the group of schools most likely to be affected by the expected population growth in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy, Villa Maria College and St Thomas of Canterbury College, were established by Religious Institutes and thus the Bishop is not the Proprietor of these schools. However, they were founded by Religious Institutes under the authority of the Bishop who, as chief pastor of the Catholic Church in his diocese, continues to exercise canonical authority over the Catholicity of these two schools. Thus this submission also makes reference to, but does not represent the proprietorial submission of, Villa Maria College and St Thomas of Canterbury College.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT

This describes what I/we think about some of the things that are important in planning for our future local schooling network. Feel free to add any other comments also.

The special characteristics of our community are: (people, environment, life-styles)

While it is important that our Catholic schools be part of the local community (network) of state schools in their local area, it needs to be recognised that our Catholic integrated schools exist to provide education with a Catholic Special Character in a parish or pastoral area. Our network of Catholic parish schools and secondary colleges serves a very special purpose – these schools are an integral part of parish life and the mission of the Catholic Church. The Proprietor of a Catholic Integrated School has entered into a partnership with the Crown to see this education with a Catholic Special Character is delivered in our Catholic parish schools and secondary colleges. This Catholic network of primary and secondary schools serves the Catholic school market share of the school population which, as per the 2006 Census, is 12.6% of the population.

The future school network could support these characteristics by:

In negotiating the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975, there were six principles deemed essential by the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand. The fourth of “the ‘Six Principles’ [that] were deemed to be ‘essential to the character and integrity of the Catholic school system within a new partnership in the New Zealand school system’”¹ was:

- “4. The right to extend existing schools and build new ones to meet the demands of legitimate expansion and proven need, including schools with special purposes; e.g. catering for special educational, physical or emotional problems”¹.

Given that the Proprietor of Our Lady of the Assumption School has the land on which to erect any extra classrooms required to provide for the future Catholic primary school population growth in the Halswell/Oaklands area the Bishop of Christchurch would ask to be assured that future applications, to the Minister of Education, for maximum roll increases at Our Lady of the Assumption School (Hoon Hay) (*and Our Lady of Victories School (Sockburn) – see “Other Issues” below*) would be supported by the Ministry of Education.

Further, the Bishop of Christchurch would wish to negotiate an assurance that the school property provision that would necessarily follow any such increase in the maximum roll would be funded by way of Policy Two funding, when the increase in student numbers represents a savings to the Crown. This understanding is based on protocols Catholic School Proprietors have with the Ministry of Education, whereby the Catholic network of primary and secondary schools is able to be supported, by way of Government Policy Two funding for roll growth classrooms, in serving numerical growth in line with the Catholic school market share. The Proprietor of St Thomas of Canterbury College agrees with this view. The writer also notes that the current maximum roll and enrolment scheme discussions among Catholic secondary schools reflect the desire of the Catholic community to accommodate the growing number of Catholic secondary school students within the boundaries of the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy.

The most important things that schools should do for our students are:

As a Catholic school community we exercise the right to live and teach that Christ is the foundation of the whole enterprise in a Catholic school. A Catholic school education recognises and respects the uniqueness of every individual within the school community as made in the image and likeness of God, while also contributing to the formation of community, especially that community which gathers on the Lord’s Day to be nurtured by Word and Sacrament.

A Catholic school does not operate alone but works in partnership with the parish and the wider Church community. It collaborates particularly with parents whom it acknowledges as the first and foremost educators of their children.

The Church requires Catholic schools to reproduce the characteristic features of a school. That is to say, a Catholic school provides a curriculum and other features which are not only in keeping with the teaching of the Church, but which are also in accordance with all that is common and desirable in effective schools, including high quality education and sound management systems. The Catholic Church works in partnership with the Ministry of Education, in striving for excellence in New Zealand's education system; and the Catholic Church has a proven record of delivering in this regard.

The future school network could help us meet these goals by:

With respect to the future school network in the Halswell/Wigram area, the Ministry of Education could ensure that the Catholic school system is able to meet the above goals for our preference students and their parents by allowing the Catholic school market share of the growth in this area to be accommodated by way of supporting the school's Proprietor in any application(s) for an increase in the maximum rolls of the affected schools in the Halswell/Wigram area - Our Lady of the Assumption School, Hoon Hay); Our Lady of Victories School, Sockburn (*see below*); St Thomas of Canterbury College and Villa Maria College.

The Ministry of Education's support for an increase in a Catholic school's maximum roll, because of increased number of preference students in the Halswell/Wigram area applying for enrolment at a Catholic integrated school, is of importance to the Catholic integrated section of the future school network in the Halswell/Wigram area as the Ministry of Education's 85% capacity benchmark trigger for a school requiring an enrolment scheme has been reached or exceeded by all these Catholic integrated schools:

School	Current Maximum Roll	85% of the Current Maximum Roll	1st July 2007 Domestic Student Roll
Our Lady of the Assumption School	250	213	215
Our Lady of Victories School	272	231	227
Villa Maria College	750	638	746
St Thomas of Canterbury College	485	412	443

This is also particularly important for Our Lady of the Assumption School if the outcome of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) provides for greater emphasis on more intensification of existing residential areas and growth, therefore, becomes more intensified around the current ‘community nodes’; as this would mean that areas like the ‘Sparks Road’ sub area would be more likely to be developed as this would consolidate the existing urban areas.

Other issues that should be considered are:

Bishop Barry Jones is also the Proprietor of Our Lady of Victories School (Sockburn).

This school (*whilst not in the network of schools that the Ministry of Education identified as being the group of schools most likely to be affected by the expected population growth in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy*) is, in the view of the writer, very likely to be affected by the expected population growth in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy. I make this statement based upon the following:

- The proposed Southern Arterial Motorway Bypass will split the area into two parts – Wigram and Halswell/Oaklands. The future Catholic school population growth in the Wigram area will naturally be absorbed by Our Lady of Victories School – Wigram lies within the Our Lady of Victories Parish boundaries (*see the enclosed attachment*). This is akin to the State school population growth in the Wigram area being absorbed by Sockburn School (and Sockburn School is already in the network of schools that the Ministry of Education identified as the schools most likely to be affected by the expected population growth in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy).
- On 1st July 2007 the domestic student roll of Our Lady of Victories School was 227 students, which is 83% of the school’s maximum roll.

I/we think an ideal mix of school types for the Halswell/Wigram area is:

The current mix of state primary and secondary schools, Catholic integrated primary and secondary schools, and Christian integrated primary and secondary schools is ideal. That being said, there appears to be a clear need for at least one, if not two (*depending upon what is deemed to be an appropriate size for a state primary school*), more state primary schools – it would appear to the writer that the increase in the state secondary school population over the next 10 – 20 years can be accommodated on the current state secondary school sites by increasing the classroom provision on the current sites.

With respect to the increase in the Catholic integrated school population over the next 10 – 20 years the writer believes this can be accommodated on the current Catholic integrated primary school and Catholic integrated secondary school sites. The Proprietor of St Thomas of Canterbury College agrees with this view.

That being said, the Ministry of Education could ensure that the Catholic school system is able to meet this growth in our preference student numbers by allowing the Catholic school market share of the growth in this area to be accommodated by way of supporting the school's Proprietor in any application(s) for an increase in the maximum rolls of the affected schools in the Halswell/Wigram area - Our Lady of the Assumption School, Hoon Hay); Our Lady of Victories School, Sockburn; St Thomas of Canterbury College and Villa Maria College.

The ideal school size(s) for our community is:

The writer is of the view that the ideal size for Catholic primary schools in the Halswell/Wigram area is in the range: 175 - 300 students.

Further, the writer is of the view that the ideal size for Catholic secondary schools in the Halswell/Wigram area is in the range: 450 - 850 students.

I/We think this because:

The Catholic school does not operate alone but works in partnership with the parish(es) and the wider Church community. It accepts a responsibility for the spiritual guidance of members of the school community and collaborates particularly with parents, whom it acknowledges as the first and foremost educators of their children.

The Catholic school works to support parents and caregivers in their responsibility for their children's education; therefore the Catholic school cooperates with parents, respecting their right to know, understand and share in decisions that affect the education and welfare of their children.

In our Religious education programme, and other programmes, the Catholic school works to enhance family life and the home-school-parish relationship.

Authentic Catholic education has as its mission to educate students within an atmosphere of Christ's love, which permeates all that occurs in the school. Further, the school encourages growth in faith and prepares people for their life as Christians in the community.

In order to effectively serve the intimate and family nature of the above aims the writer believes that a Catholic school ought be of a size where each person is known, understood and valued as an individual, an individual person made in the image and likeness of God. Alongside this, in the secondary sector, one must balance the complexity of the secondary school curriculum and its requirements for specialist facilities; thus having the ability to increase its maximum roll within a range of 450 – 850 students is supported by the Proprietor of St Thomas of Canterbury College - because a school roll within this range would allow for an intimate and family sized secondary school that would also have a school property guide entitlement large enough to provide for appropriate specialist facilities to support a broad and balanced curriculum.

FURTHER COMMENTS

The Status of Catholic Integrated School Boards of Trustees and the Nature of the Involvement of Catholic Integrated School Boards of Trustees in the Consultation Process ...

The Crown can initiate or direct any consultation with the Crown entities (Boards of Trustees) of state schools at any time. The Boards of Trustees of integrated state schools are, obviously, also Crown entities and are rightly included in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy Consultation Process.

That being said, it is important to note that a Board of Trustees of a Catholic integrated school cannot enter into any agreement with the Crown to review the structure and/or provide for an increase to the maximum roll – only the Proprietor of a Catholic integrated school can enter into an agreement with the Crown to review the structure and/or provide for an increase to the maximum roll.

It is for the above reason that this submission is presented on behalf of the Proprietor of the following two schools: Our Lady of the Assumption School (*89A Sparks Road, Hoon Hay*) and Our Lady of Victories School (*106 Main South Road, Sockburn*).

That being said, this submission also has the full support of the following Catholic school Boards of Trustees and my fellow Catholic secondary school Proprietors within the group of schools and communities the Ministry of Education deemed most likely to be affected by the expected population growth in the Halswell/Wigram Area Strategy:

- Our Lady of the Assumption School Board of Trustees (Hoon Hay)
- Our Lady of Victories School Board of Trustees (Sockburn)
- The Trustees of the Christian Brothers NZ (Proprietor of St Thomas of Canterbury College)

Summary

In summary, and with respect to the future school network in the Halswell/Wigram area, the Ministry of Education could ensure that the Catholic school system is able to meet the above goals for our preference students and community by allowing the Catholic school market share of the growth in this area to be accommodated by way of supporting the school's Proprietor in any application(s) for an increase in the maximum rolls of the affected schools in the Halswell/Wigram area - Our Lady of the Assumption School, Hoon Hay); Our Lady of Victories School, Sockburn; St Thomas of Canterbury College and Villa Maria College.

Mike Nolan
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14 August 2007

Reference:

¹ Sweetman, R. (2002). *A fair and just solution? A history of the integration of private schools in New Zealand*. Palmerston North: Dunmore Press.

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BY: 17 AUGUST 2007

Wigram House is located in the heart of central London and is only a 15 minutes' walk to Chelsea College of Arts. The hall itself is a beautiful Victorian building with modern, high- spec facilities inside. Welcome to Wigram House | UAL Halls. Location. Wigram House is a late Victorian mansion block, with beautiful high spec facilities inside. Located in a quiet residential street off the paved piazza of Westminster Cathedral, the hall is located in the heart of central London and a few minutes walk away from Westminster Abbey, The Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and the River Thames. Our individual studios, bedrooms, kitchens, and communal area layouts vary considerably and may not look exactly as the images are shown. Prices and sizes. Halswell Travel Guide. Let the travel experts at Orbitz find fabulous-value flight and hotel packages for you. If you're keen to organize that epic Halswell trip, you're on the right track! Want to save up to \$369? All you've got to do is bundle your bookings by picking out your desired hotels, airfares, rental cars and experiences. On top of all that, you'll be glad to hear that you can tailor your trip by picking from 500 airlines and more than 500,000 global hotel options. You've been given the go-ahead for annual leave, work friends have recommended Halswell and you just need a little reminder of where it actually sits on the map? Sit back and we'll guide you there. It's a neighborhood in the fantastic city of Christchurch. You'll find it sitting 6 miles to the southwest of the downtown area. Halswell Wigram Rugby, Christchurch, New Zealand. 412 likes · 13 talking about this. Christchurch's newest rugby club established 2014, situated at... Support our local bars and restaurants at this time too, The Good Home Wigram, Mexicali Fresh Wigram, Joes Garage and Fush at Wigram and many more! See more. See all.