



110 Harrison Street
Ashburton 7700
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4th February 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

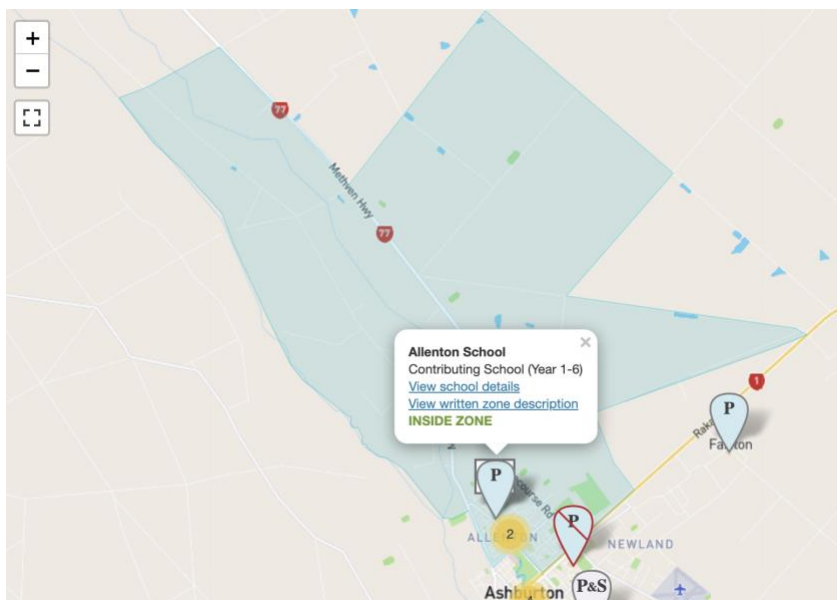
Allenton School - Enrolment Scheme (School Zone)

This is to formally advise that **Allenton School Board of Trustees** has been directed in writing by the **Ministry of Education** to review and potentially reduce our current enrolment scheme home zone.

As part of the review of our enrolment scheme, we are required to consult with the community and with local schools. The consultation period must be open for at least a month and the information in this letter is the first part of that consultation.

Our current home enrolment zone is as follows:

The area north of the South Branch of the Ashburton River from a line extending South from Melrose Road; West to Walkhams Road, North on Shearers Road to Highway 72; East to Winchmore-Lauriston Road; North to Dromore Methven Road; East to Mitcham Road;
South to Winchmore Dromore Road; North-East to State Highway 1; South-West on Hepburns Road to Mitcham Road; East to State Highway 1; South to West Street; along West Street to Walnut Avenue; West to Oak Grove; South to Alford Forest Road; both sides of Alford Forest Road to Melrose Road.



Points to Note:

The Ministry of Education has advised that significant residential growth is anticipated in the current Allenton School Enrolment Scheme Home Zone and consideration needs to be given to potential changes to the zone in order to reduce the risk of overcrowding at Allenton School, and to make better use of capacity available at another local school.

We have of course known that we are close to capacity for the last few years and we have been discussing the matter with the Ministry of Education for all of that time. We already have children in three areas - Rooms 17 and 18 and the school library - that should not be designated as fulltime classrooms, but using these spaces has been the only available solution for us.

Our new build - 7 teaching spaces - will take us to a 430 roll capacity but we finished 2020 with 440 children. Five of the new spaces are to replace the existing middle school prefabs and that block will eventually be demolished.

The new build construction is expected to begin in the April holidays.

The Ministry of Education indicated in writing that the Board can frame the consultation to highlight our preferred option. The Board of Trustees preferred option is not to reduce the school zone at all as we do not believe it will make any difference to our issue of overcrowding in the short or medium term. The Board believes that much of our future roll growth will come from new subdivision areas in the current Allenton zone and where we are the closest school for many kilometres.

As such, we asked the Ministry of Education to consider the next stage of our Capital Works Master Plan as a matter of urgency. They told us that there are two main reasons why we have to now review our current school zone. Firstly, they have a fiscal responsibility to explore other options before further capital works can be considered. Secondly, there is surplus capacity at another primary school in relative proximity to our own.

With this statement considered, the **Board of Trustees** has determined that it must now undertake this review of our school zone and consulting with the community is a required and integral part of this review.

The details of the proposed enrolment scheme review are below and have also been attached to the general newsletter email. This information is also on the school website.

Enrolment Scheme Review - Important Points

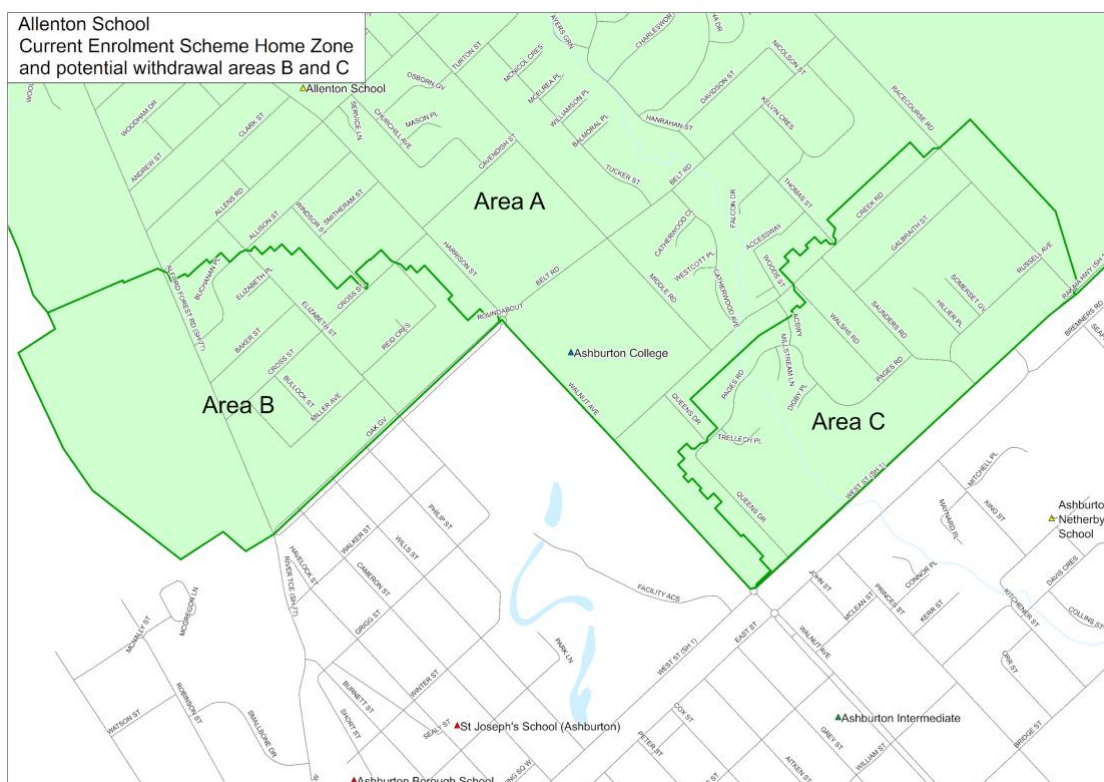
Please refer to the map below for the designated areas.

1. The Ministry of Education identified that Area A is the core Allenton School zone area. It is not a potential zone reduction area.
2. The Ministry of Education identified Area B as their preference for a potential area of zone reduction. Area B includes parts of Elizabeth Street, Cross Street and other nearby streets, all this side of Oak Grove.
3. If Area B was to be withdrawn from the Allenton School zone, this area would be included within the Ashburton Borough School zone.

4. The Board of Trustees believes that Area B is also a core Allenton School zone area and it should not be a potential zone reduction area. This area is bound by main roads, which are often busy with traffic and for children to have to cross them by themselves is a considerable risk. Our school is the closest one for the children who live in these streets to attend and they are able to walk here safely.
5. The Ministry of Education then required the Board of Trustees to nominate another urban area as a potential zone reduction area and the Board nominated Area C. Area C is between Ashburton College and State Highway 1 and is currently shared with Ashburton Netherby School. This area has three schools, Allenton, Ashburton Borough and Ashburton Netherby a similar distance away.
6. The Ministry of Education has indicated that Ashburton Netherby School is also at capacity, although Area C is already part of their zone, albeit currently shared with Allenton School.
7. The Ministry of Education asked the Board to choose another area for consideration but this is not possible. If the Board is mandated to reduce our zone it would consider increasing Area C up to the college side of Belt Road.
8. The Ministry of Education has told us that Area C would not be considered until the traffic lights on SH1 are in place and have been determined as a safe area for children to cross.
9. The Ministry of Education has indicated that should the Allenton zone be reduced children living in that area and currently attending Allenton School can continue to do so, and any siblings still to enrol will be considered as in-zone under what is known as the 'Grandparent Scheme.'

Community Feedback Required

The Ministry of Education has mandated that the Board of Trustees seeks feedback regarding the potential withdrawal of the Allenton School zone from **Area B** or **Area C** on the following map.



You are invited to indicate your preference regarding this proposed enrolment scheme by completing the following Google Forms survey.

The survey will ask two administrative questions and then the following two key questions and it is important that you respond to both key questions.

Q1. In regards to the Allenton School Enrolment Scheme Review my preference is:

1. To withdraw Area B from the Allenton School Zone
2. To withdraw Area C from the Allenton School Zone
3. To withdraw a different area from the Allenton School Zone (please indicate which area)

Q2. If I was given the option I would choose to retain the existing Allenton School Enrolment Scheme Home Zone:

1. Yes
2. No

You will have the option of adding any pertinent comments.

The link to the survey is:

<https://forms.gle/7oxQZB5xbyZzisad8>

You can also indicate your preference and make comment in writing to:

The Chairperson, Allenton School Board of Trustees, 110 Harrison Street, Allenton, Ashburton 7700.

The Google Forms survey and the acceptance of written comments will close on Friday 5th March 2021.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce Tilby
(Principal)



Michael Wong
(Interim Chairperson - Allenton School Board of Trustees)