



## Sommerfield Te Kura Wairepo Enrolment Scheme Consultation FAQs

### Introduction

The Ministry of Education has requested under section 11H of the Education Act 1989 that Sommerfield Te Kura Wairepo amends its enrolment scheme home zone to manage our growing school roll.

The reason for this is to ensure that Sommerfield Te Kura Wairepo can manage the numbers of students attending our school. Before amending our enrolment scheme zone, we are required to consult with our students, parents and local community, with parents of prospective students of Sommerfield Te Kura Wairepo and with the Boards of other local schools that may be affected by the amendment.

### What is an enrolment scheme?

An Enrolment Scheme is a means of preventing overcrowding at a school, ensuring fair and transparent processes are used to determine enrolment eligibility, and enables the Ministry of Education to make best use of the current schools in the surrounding area. Each enrolment scheme must contain a home zone with clearly defined boundaries.

A school enrolment scheme gives students who live in the home zone a guarantee that they can go to that school. The Enrolment Scheme also details the way in which students may enrol at a Special Programme run by the school, and the way in which out-of-zone applications will be balloted.

### How is a home zone determined?

The home zone is generally determined based on a combination of; midpoints between schools, barriers to access, current neighbouring zone boundaries, contributing (feeder) school zones, and number of students within the area, geographical considerations e.g. rivers and access.

A school's home zone must be defined by geographic boundaries, and must be described in such a way that any given address is either within or outside the home zone.

A school's home zone—

- (a) must be an area for which the school is a reasonably convenient school for a student living in that area to attend; and
- (b) may exclude any area for which another school is also a reasonably convenient school for a student living in that area to attend; and
- (c) may exclude any area that it is desirable to exclude for the purpose of allowing the Secretary to make best use of the existing network of State schools in the area.

### Who will be managing the consultation?

The Education Act charges boards with introducing or changing enrolment schemes and there is a requirement for them to consult on their proposals. When an individual school works towards an enrolment scheme, the Board is required, under the Education Act, to consult with whatever persons and organisations it considers appropriate and, in particular, must take all reasonable steps to discover and consider the views of—

- (a) the parents of students at the school; and
- (b) the people living in the area for which the school is a reasonably convenient school; and

(c) the students and prospective students of the school (depending on their age and maturity); and

(d) the boards of other schools that could be affected by the proposed enrolment scheme.

**When will the consultation begin?**

Week 5, Term 3 2020

**When will the consultation be complete?**

Friday, 25 September 2020

**What happens after the board of trustees have consulted?**

When the board has consulted with their community and schools that might be affected by the proposed enrolment scheme, they will consider the feedback received and submit a proposed scheme, along with the feedback received, to the Ministry of Education for final approval. The Ministry will assess the proposed scheme and all the feedback received and ensure it meets the requirements of the Education Act while considering it for approval. After the Ministry has approved an enrolment scheme, the board will formally adopt the scheme.

**When will the changes take place?**

An estimated timeline for implementation of the amended enrolment scheme would likely be for the beginning of Term 1, 2021, however this may change dependent on consultation feedback.

**Who can take part in the consultation?**

Anyone who wants to have their say on the proposed enrolment schemes including students, parents, local communities and neighbouring schools.

**Is the amended scheme already pre-determined?**

No. We value their community's views and realise that these decisions can affect them. Consultation is essential to ensure all ideas have been considered as well as identifying other options or implications that may emerge to assist the board's decision making. Once the board has considered the feedback, we will submit a proposed scheme to the Ministry.

The Ministry is charged with ensuring the proposed schemes meet the requirements of the Education Act, including that the school has undertaken sufficient consultation prior to submitting a proposed scheme for approval.

**How is the amended scheme determined?**

It is the board of trustees for each school that make the decision on the areas they will consult on. The Ministry supports this process by providing analytics and data on current and projected school rolls, as well as information on the expected impact of enrolment schemes on the local school network.

Following consultation, Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo will consider all feedback and then make their recommendation to the Ministry of Education.

**I don't have children attending Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo, can I still take part in the consultation?**

Anyone who wants to have their say on the proposed enrolment scheme can do so even if they don't have children attending Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo.

**How do I take part in the consultation?**

The school board's consultation details can be found on our website: <https://www.somerfield.school.nz/>

**What if I want to talk to someone about the proposed scheme?**

People can discuss any changes and how they will be affected by these changes by contacting our liaison person, Tom Scollard, email: [tom@tomscollard.co.nz](mailto:tom@tomscollard.co.nz).

### **My children attend Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo– how does this consultation affect our family?**

Irrespective of a new or amended enrolment scheme, no students currently enrolled at Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo will be disadvantaged and they will remain students of Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo.

### **Why is there a potential overlap in some areas, where an address can be within a zone for two schools?**

In some cases, schools will propose that their schemes overlap. Where this occurs these overlaps can be approved by the Ministry, whilst giving consideration to things like whether the overlap results in an increased risk of overcrowding at one of the schools. Students in an area where there is an overlap are able to choose what local school they want to attend.

### **We live in an area that is currently within a school enrolment scheme and the consultation proposes that it would become part of a different school's enrolment scheme – what does this mean for our family?**

Irrespective of any changes to the enrolment schemes, no students currently enrolled will be disadvantaged and they will remain students of Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo

Standard “grand-parenting” provisions apply for families at Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo. This ensures that if an address becomes out of zone due to a reduction in the scheme, the address will continue to be considered “in zone”, but only for as long as it contains children who are younger siblings of current students.

If an address becomes part of a different school's enrolment scheme, students not yet enrolled at a school will be able to attend the school that they will then be in-zone for.

### **Our children attend state integrated / private schools – what does this consultation mean for our family?**

There is no change to your child attending state integrated / private schools however if your child wants the option to attend a state co-ed school, an enrolment scheme ensures that they are able to attend a local school that is reasonably convenient to where they live.

### **I've never enrolled a child at a school with an enrolment scheme – what do I need to know about doing this?**

Prior to enrolment, parents/caregivers would be required to supply documentation to verify residency to the school.

### **What is the difference between 'pre-enrolment' and 'enrolment'?**

'Pre-enrolment' means the period in which applications for enrolment are invited and processed by a school which has an enrolment scheme.

'Enrolment' occurs when attendance at the school starts and the student is first marked as present on the school roll.

Therefore the enrolment scheme changes apply to students whose enrolment is at or after the date of the implementation of the zone change.

### **I want to enrol my children at Somerfield Te Kura Wairepo with an enrolment scheme, but we live outside the enrolment scheme area – what do I do?**

If your child wants the option to attend a state school as an out of zone student, it would then be via the ballot system which may not see them being enrolled.

As per the usual process, the Boards of Trustees will determine each year how many spaces they are able to make available for out of zone applicants.

Each year, schools are required to put a notice in a local newspaper saying:

- how many out-of-zone places are likely to be available
- the closing date for applications for these places
- any ballot dates for out-of-zone places.

However, you can contact a school at any time to ask about zoning and have them send you a pre-enrolment pack which will have important dates.

Applicants are accepted in this order:

1. first priority must be given to any applicant who is accepted for enrolment in a special programme run by the school
2. second priority must be given to any applicant who is the sibling of a current student of the school
3. third priority must be given to any student who is the sibling of a former student of the school
4. fourth priority must be given to any applicant who is a child of a former student of the school
5. fifth priority must be given to any applicant who is either a child of an employee of the board of the school or a child of a member of the board of the school
6. sixth priority must be given to all other applicants.

**Can a board change the order of priority for out of zone applicants?**

No. The order of priority is set out in the Education Act and cannot be changed.