



Chlöe Swarbrick

Green Party Auckland Central MP

22nd June 2021

Ministry of Education

Brenda Roberts, Property Manager

Kali Edwards, Infrastructure (Northern Region)

Cc Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Jacqui Tutavake, Tumuaki/Principal of Richmond Road School

Kia ora Brenda and Kali, to whom it may concern at the Ministry of Education,

I'm writing to you off the back of a visit to one of the wonderful schools in my Auckland Central electorate, Richmond Road, which I understand you've also recently inspected. It was lunch time, and the vibrant community of diverse and bright children were at play, completely oblivious – due in no small part to the phenomenal teachers and support staff – to the degradation of many of their learning environments.

You will be aware that in 2015 there were widely consulted plans which led to the cementing of the school's Masterplan. This laid out three 'phases' of development for upgrading, demolishing and rebuilding. When one of these buildings burnt down, there was a slight plan change, and 'temporary' prefab units were established on the school field, to house about half of the school's classrooms. This then urgently required the development of the new modern learning environment, which I understand was opened in 2018.

Classrooms have since then moved into this new modern learning environment, and with the dangerous and decrepit 'third phase' building due to be demolished and rebuilt, the

The logo for the Green Party, featuring the word 'Green' in a stylized, green, sans-serif font with a leaf-like shape integrated into the letter 'G'.



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classrooms in there moved across to the prefab. These include the Samoan and Te Reo Māori immersion classes, along with one of the school's three French units. They waited for the demolition and beginning of the rebuild, but several years later, it's still yet to come. These kids continue having to learn, and teachers continue having to teach, in supposedly temporary, run-down prefabs that get damp when it rains and contain toilets so makeshift that they hold overwhelming smell which cannot be washed or cleaned away. I feel this very well could be a health and safety concern.

That these prefabs were intended to be temporary was once again reinforced when in July last year, somebody from the Ministry of Education in Christchurch called up to co-ordinate finally removing the prefab buildings, completely unaware that they were still being used to educate 150 tamariki. Eight or so years on from what was supposed to be a stop-gap, I'm hoping we can finally designate the requisite funding to ensure these young people get the learning environment they and our communities deserve.

At the beginning of this academic year, I understand the Ministry finalised and offered the Board of Trustees its intended five-yearly property fund. It was at that point identified the Ministry had either forgotten or misplaced its commitments to Richmond Road School's Property Masterplan, because the funding simply would not cover the necessary demolition or rebuilding of the vacant and unfit building, in turn meaning the 'temporary' prefabs on the field continue to have to be used.

I know you have also met a number of times this year with Principal Tutavake, but we need more than meetings. We need building to get underway, because we cannot accept another seven years of our kids in these inadequate learning environments.

As the local MP, I request information at the earliest possible convenience about how the Ministry intends to fulfil its commitments to our community as laid out in the Ministry's own, widely-consulted and agreed Masterplan.





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Our kids deserve quality classrooms, decent amenities (like toilets) and to have their field back. Our teachers deserve to not be concerned with dampness of their classrooms, but teaching of these kids.

Please let me know if you require any further information whatsoever. Principal Tutavake and the school Board have also made it clear they are available and keen to answer any questions, once again offer a tour of the environment or engage in any way necessary to get what was agreed to the better half of a decade ago finally off the ground.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chlöe Swarbrick', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Chlöe Swarbrick,

Member of Parliament for Auckland Central

The Green Party logo, consisting of a stylized green leaf above the word 'Green' in a bold, green, sans-serif font.