



MIDDLETON GRANGE SCHOOL

Character, Excellence, Service for the Glory of God

15 October 2024

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

Proposed changes to Middleton Grange School enrolment scheme

A number of you have asked for clarification regarding changes in the proposed enrolment scheme for Middleton Grange School (MGS). The Board encourages parents to read the information below, together with the [information available on the Ministry of Education website](#) and make a submission **before 24 October 2024**.

While the Board believes the new enrolment scheme provides simpler and clearer priorities than the current scheme, we acknowledge that the implications of proposed changes have raised concerns. What follows is a summary of the current scheme, key proposed changes, and some of the implications of these changes.

CURRENT enrolment scheme

Enrolment applications are processed based on preference status, then the following enrolment priorities (simplified for purposes of this letter):

- First Priority: All children of preference applicants who live in the "outer zone" (practically, Greater Christchurch) based on place availability.
- Second Priority: Siblings of current pupils of families who live in either the inner or outer zone.
- Third Priority: Children of staff, proprietor and board members who live in either the inner or outer zone.
- Fourth Priority: Children from a CEN contributing school (graduates from a CEN school, or those who have moved into MGS inner zone).
- Fifth Priority: Children of families who live in the inner zone and who demonstrate commitment to Christian education, the child was a past pupil of the school, or parents were past pupils of the school.
- Sixth Priority: All other preference applicants from the inner zone.
- Seventh Priority: All other preference applicants from the outer zone, prioritising parents who were past pupils, then all other families.
- Eighth Priority: All non-preference applicants.

For further information and full details related to the current enrolment scheme, please refer to the [MGS website](#).

PROPOSED CHANGES to enrolment scheme

Key proposed changes include:

- There is no longer an outer zone. The "inner zone" is now called a "catchment area".
- Priority 1 is now given to all preference applicants who live in the catchment (inner zone) area. All other preference applicants who live outside the catchment (inner zone) area are Priority 2.
- Siblings of current pupils are prioritised for families who live only in the catchment (inner zone) area.
- Children of staff, proprietor and board members are prioritised for families who live only in the catchment (inner zone) area.

- The proposed catchment (inner zone) area has “shared zones”, where residents will be in catchment (inner zone) for two schools. For example: in Wigram and Halswell, MGS has a shared zone with Aidanfield Christian School; in part of Burnside, MGS has a shared zone with Emmanuel Christian School; in districts around Darfield, MGS has a shared zone with Rolleston Christian School.

IMPLICATIONS of proposed changes

- New preference families who want their children to attend MGS will most likely need to reside in the catchment (inner zone) area (similar to state school home zones). This is the preferred Ministry of Education model.
- The removal of the “outer zone” means the current high priority afforded to children of staff and siblings of enrolled students who live outside the new catchment (inner zone) area is removed. This may affect our ability to attract and recruit high-quality Christian staff who do not live in catchment (inner zone). If a family moves out of catchment (inner zone), any siblings not currently in school will be a low priority to attend MGS (but will be a high priority to attend the CEN school in the catchment (inner zone) area in which the family now lives).
- There is a ‘grandparent clause’ for existing families, so the proposed changes will only affect families new to MGS.

Overall, the Board believes the new enrolment scheme is easier to understand and has some significant strengths. For example, “shared zones” are a good outcome for parents and schools. However, other proposed changes as outlined above may be challenging for families new to the school or for families who move out of the catchment (inner zone) area while schooling at Middleton Grange.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. We encourage families to engage with the Ministry of Education [by making a submission before the 24 October 2024 deadline.](#)

If you have any queries, please feel free to [email the MGS office.](#)

Nga mihi

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Presiding Member

Mike Vannoort
Principal