



**Newlands**  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

March 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

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It is with a heavy heart and deep sorrow that I write to you today in the aftermath of the horrific events that occurred in Christchurch last Friday.

I speak for all staff, members of our board and indeed our community when I say this abhorrent act does not reflect the society we all know and value in New Zealand.

Our hearts go out to the Muslim community and any who have been affected personally by this tragedy.

We have Muslim families in our school community and we know that our students could be affected in some way.

All classes will meet together early on Monday morning to allow students an opportunity to talk about how they are feeling and help teachers identify students who may need extra support as the week goes on.

The leadership team will be visiting the mosque nearby tomorrow to show our support for the Muslim families in the Newlands community. We are happy to take messages of support from students and their families.

We will hold a mufti day later this week to raise money to support the Christchurch Muslim families.

The NZEI meetings planned for this week have been postponed so we can focus on our students and their wellbeing.

Talking with my colleagues in Christchurch over the weekend has reinforced the importance of having lockdown drills. We will have a drill during the week.

If you want to keep your child close to home this week you have our support. I ask that you monitor your child's use of social media this week to limit any impact images and messages posted online might have.

We will support our students and their families throughout this week and beyond as needed. Our school counsellor is on call and will be here to assist in any way he can. Returning to routines and providing a safe place to be with friends will give us all some stability in the coming days.

Our school values matter now more than ever –

**Newlands Intermediate School is a place to stand tall – tūrangawaewae. Together we build resilience and integrity, value diversity and heritage, celebrate growth and effort, show compassion and care, learn in, with and from our community - To create citizens that contribute positively to the world.**

Nga mihi nui

Angela Lowe

Principal on behalf of the Newlands Intermediate Board of Trustees

