

Working together to maintain a vital school and community-swimming asset in Newtown.

Newtown School and Community Pool

Key Messages:

- The Newtown School Board of Trustees wish to work actively together with the council to maintain a vital option to our communities in the southern suburbs to learn to swim and explore the potential collaboration of future investment in this community resource.
- The pool provides an important part in the cities swimming provision and capacity for swimming lessons.
- Newtown is a community with a populated area of deprivation, low income, new New Zealanders.... A fully operational pool is vital to our community – so that it is assessable in both time and distance to our community.
- If we loss the opportunity now to maintain the pool, the board of trustees are to look seriously at the pools future.
- The Board of trustees have invested in maintaining operations for many years – and have resisted the option to close the pool like the other 70 schools in the city. We are still one of only 12 school pools still operating. We are required to provide a health and safe facility. This is an increasingly growing challenge to the Board as the facility ages and the existing issues increase in seriousness. We do not want to have to take the option of closing the pool in the short- term future.
- Board has discussed increasing public usage and how we might facilitate this.
- Approached to run closed public sessions for our Muslim mothers and community members.
- Facility shared by other education centres i.e. St Anne’s School - Pre school groups are to use pool more readily.
- We are experiencing an increase in our school roll and this trend will continue.
- Afterschool and holiday programmes are increasing participation and usage.
- Fairness of council allocation.
- Revenue collected from private lesson providers goes directly back into operating and maintaining the pool throughout the year. Pool is open all year round. The Board continue to develop, a sustainable model of operations for learn to swim programmes.
- Used locally raised school funds are invested in the pool.
- Share the capacity demands with the council.
- Engage in constructive dialogue with the council to meet our communities’ expectations and needs for the next 50 years. Polishing the gem in Newtown!
- Councillors and city officials are most welcome to visit our pool and see its potential and future!

Providing over 40,000 learn to swim opportunities a year (and growing), a Newtown School pool upgrade project fits well with Council’s objective in this area and the aims of the School Pools Partnership Fund. Newtown School supports the objectives of the Fund and shares the concerns of Water Safety New Zealand about declining swimming skills in New Zealand children and the impact this has on drowning rates.



