

The Nelson Mail

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Private school is for Brethren only

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A private secondary school earmarked for a site in Headingly Lane, Richmond, will be for Brethren students only.

The Brethren community's Tasman Education Trust has applied for consent to build the school on the 5.9ha site and hopes to open it next year.

The co-educational school would be called Bayview School and would provide classes for 90 pupils aged 11 to 17, the trust's resource consent application said.

It would employ 14 staff, including 10 teachers.

Brethren children in Nelson are currently either home-schooled or attend local secondary schools.

Mark Hewetson, a board of trustees member for the new school, said in September the old schooling arrangements had worked well, but the new private school would "go a step further".

"Through private schooling, we are seeking a higher level of attainment."

The trust's application outlines plans to build an administration block, a library-music block with two classrooms, a multi-purpose block and a combined hall-gymnasium. It was also planned to build a further classroom depending on the growth of the school.

There are three dwellings on the land and one building would be removed. The other two would be converted for use, with one used as the administration block while the school was under construction.

On the land adjacent to the gym, two tennis courts and a netball court would be built.

The land is zoned rural two. Discretionary permission will be needed to build the gym as it will be 2m over the height limit. It will also need permission to treat and dispose of sewage at the site.

The Education Ministry has given the trust approval to start the school.

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