

Parent information on the framework requirements for school lessons from 16.12.2020 to 10.01.2021

Dear Parents

Dear Legal Guardians

Dear Sir or Madam

The current school year has been shaped most notably and to a great extent by the coronavirus pandemic. Over the last weeks and months schools have done outstanding work and their utmost to make school attendance possible in order to implement the right to education in the best possible way and to guarantee the compatibility of family life and work.

An increase in people getting together is expected during the holidays and at the turn of the year, which may well result in a further dramatic surge in infections.

On 13.12.2020 the minister-presidents of the federal states in conjunction with the chancellor decided to tighten measures to protect against infection by imposing restrictions on public and social life.

In the process, schools should also assume their responsibility towards society as a whole to contain the coronavirus pandemic, reducing lessons and, as a result, limiting social contact as much as possible.

In consequence, the following framework requirements will apply to schools in Saarland:

Compulsory school attendance for all lessons and courses will be suspended from Wednesday, 16.12.2020 to 10.01.2021. That means that, as a general rule, there will be no lessons for children at school, but 'learning from home' instead.

A modified educational programme on the respective school premises will be offered in the morning to individual schoolchildren in classes 1 – 6. In exceptional cases, where there is a compelling reason, children from class 7 onwards may also attend. If it is not possible for you to take care of your child at home or there is no workspace available to allow learning at home, you can enrol your child on this programme at school by Tuesday, 15.12.2020 at the latest.

The **voluntary all-day school programme (FGTS)** will continue as before for the children enrolled on it. **Holiday care** within the scope of the voluntary all-day school programme will go ahead as planned provided it had already been scheduled in the school calendar from 21.12.2020 to 23.12.2020. Parents or legal guardians should confirm participation in the voluntary all-day school and holiday care programme by 15.12.2020.

The rules explained above regarding the suspension of compulsory attendance from Wednesday 16.12.2020 also apply to **compulsory all-day schools**. The modified educational

programme will run at school in the morning. As a general rule, a warm meal is provided in the lunch break. This is followed by leisure activities until what would normally be the end of the school day. Parents or legal guardians decide whether and to what extent their children take part in the activities mentioned.

All children – including schoolchildren at primary school - attending the programme offered by the school **must wear a face covering** the whole time that they are at school wherever it is not possible to observe the social distancing rule of 1.5 m.

Compulsory schooling is generally applicable to children ‘learning from home’. That means that **all schoolchildren will receive learning material for learning at home in the course of the last day of school attendance on 14.12.2020 and 15.12.2020**. The learning material for ‘learning from home’ should focus for primary school children first and foremost on the subjects German, Mathematics and Science, and for children of secondary level I on the core subjects German, Mathematics, and Foreign Languages as well as Natural and Social Sciences. The learning programmes for the respective final-year classes should relate to the specific examination subjects. The learning materials for secondary level II for ‘learning from home’ are generally aligned with the streaming system according to the timetable and centred on examination preparation. More in-depth practice for the school-leaving examination with feedback from the respective teachers should be the main focus.

It is important that ‘learning from home’ is supervised by teachers and that the children’s availability is guaranteed.

New course content can only be introduced after reasonable preparation during school attendance or, if applicable, as subject of a **performance assessment**. Written assignments already planned between 16.12.2020 and 10.01.2021 will be deferred. Certificates of academic achievement will also be postponed if necessary.

Schools will receive this week separate **rules on school-leaving examinations** in this school year – especially on the postponement of the examinations for the higher education entrance qualification (Abitur).

The use of digital media to actively support learning is urgently recommended especially for final-year classes and courses. The **videoconference function of the Online School Saarland (OSS)** can be offered as a digital medium for online consultation to secure assignment results. Furthermore, distance learning in the form of a digital timetable with phases of the joint online learning programme is possible.

The provisions for lessons will be adapted to reflect any changes in the occurrence of infection in the next few weeks. Naturally, we will advise you as early as possible in the New Year on further provisions for lessons from 11.01.2021 onwards.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Best wishes to you and your families for the festive season and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely
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School Principal