

Letter dated 08.01.2021 from the Saarland Ministry of Education and Culture to the Legal Guardians of Children at Special-Needs Schools [Förderschulen] in Saarland

Dear Legal Guardian

**Framework requirements for school lessons from 11.01.2021 to 31.01.2021**

In light of the high infection numbers, the Minister-Presidents of the Federal States together with the Chancellor took the decision on 05.01.2021 to extend the measures imposed on 13.12.2020 to 31.01.2021. This also continues to affect day care centres [KITAS] and schools.

The following framework requirements apply to special-needs schools [Förderschulen] in Saarland up to the end of January 2021:

- **From Monday 11.01.2021 to 31.01.2021** school attendance for all classes at primary school level remains suspended. That means that **all schoolchildren will be 'learning from home'**.
- **This rule does not include children who are taking a lower secondary examination [Hauptschulabschluss] in the current school year. As of Monday 18.01.2021 they will also return to school to attend regular lessons.**
- **Compulsory schooling** is generally applicable to children 'learning from home'.
- **A modified educational programme on the respective school premises will be offered in the morning** to children in classes 1 to 6, who cannot be supervised at home. In individual cases, children from other classes may also attend. Legal guardians should enrol their children on this programme by Tuesday at the latest for the following week.
- The rules in the current sample hygiene plan issued by the Federal State of Saarland on 17.11.2020 also apply to school attendance programmes. It should be noted that even children at primary school level **must wear a face covering** the whole time that they are at school whenever it is impossible for them to observe the social distancing rule of 1.5 m. In the support priority programme

for intellectual development, the wearing of masks is highly recommended provided the schoolchildren are able to do this.

- **The voluntary all-day school programme [FGTS]** will continue for the children enrolled on the programme in the same manner as before. Legal guardians should also confirm participation of their children in the FTGS programme by Tuesday for the following week. In order to provide some relief during lockdown to families with children requiring care the Federal State of Saarland will pay two thirds of the FGTS parent fees for the month of January. Please only make use of the care service if your child cannot be supervised at home.
- The above rules also apply to special-needs schools organised on an all-day basis. The previously mentioned modified educational programme will run at school before the lunch break. 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**. The legal guardians decide whether and to what extent their children take part in the activities mentioned. In this case, too, they should enrol their children for the programme by Tuesday for the following week.
- The structure for the supervision by teachers of the **'learning from home'** programme is dependent on the organisational conditions prevailing at the school. **All schoolchildren will continue to receive learning material for learning at home**. This will be provided via learning platforms such as the Online School Saarland [OSS], by email or other digital or analogue channels.
- It is important that the 'learning from home' programme is supervised by teachers and that the **children's availability is guaranteed**.

Naturally, we will advise you as early as possible on further provisions for lessons from 01.02.2021 onwards.

Best wishes and many thanks for your understanding!

Yours sincerely

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