



#### SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

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**Te Matapuna Aroha – Te Matapuna Whakapono**

12 August 2020

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers, Whanau,

Today the government have moved us from Level 1 to Level 2 with COVID-19. As a school we are focusing on what we can do to keep students and staff safe at Level 2. At Level 2 Ferndale School has put the following adaptations and practices in place.

#### **Distancing**

Staff and students will try to maintain the required distancing so that they are out of another person's 'moist breath zone'

#### **Regular hand washing/hand sanitising**

All students are encouraged to wash and/or sanitise their hands regularly. Students are encouraged to sneeze or cough into their elbow.

#### **Parents**

If parents/caregivers do bring in their child/young person or pick them up from school, they must maintain a 2-metre distance from students and staff. Because many of our students cannot maintain 2 metres distance we are asking that parents/caregivers drop off and pick up their child/young person at the door of the class or by briefly entering and exiting the classroom. This is to look after all our children/young people and staff.

The government requires us to keep a contact tracing register. If you come into a school space eg the classroom or administration you will need to go onto the school contact tracing register. On arrival you will be asked to fill in your details and confirm you do not have COVID-19 or been in contact with someone with a known case of COVID-19.

#### **Cleaning**

Classes will be cleaned daily. As well as this staff will clean regular contact points within the classroom such as work surfaces and door handles at times throughout the day using detergent and/or disinfectant and/or a sanitiser wipe.

#### **Classroom programmes, equipment and resources**

Classroom programs will as much as possible run as normal with adaptations so that students and staff are not in each other's moist breath zone. Some programs such as tooth brushing may not be able to be run if students require a staff member to be in close proximity to them.

Learning resources such as play dough or stationary will still be used but students will have their own items assigned to them. Other resources such as iPads or maths resources will be shared but they will be regularly wiped down with disinfectant or a sanitiser wipe. Paper can be used but the number of users for a workbook or a worksheet will be limited as much as possible to individual students. If you have any

concerns around classroom programs, use of equipment or resources, please talk with your child/young person's classroom teacher.

At this stage in Level 2 our students will not be accessing community facilities or programs such as libraries, pools, gyms, Special Olympics sports, bussing, malls, supermarkets, other shopping facilities and public playgrounds. Our work experience for transition students is currently on hold. Kapa Haka and Jolt sessions is also on hold (although this may still be run with zoom sessions). We have put on hold our satellite class students going into mainstream classes and mainstream students going into satellite classes. However, students will still be able to go on van outings and go walking in the community in places where it is easy to maintain the 2-meter distance rule. A reduced version of DOE programs will also happen.

### **Break times**

Break times will happen as normal and children/young people will be able to access sports equipment and play on school playgrounds. Currently students based in satellites will not be playing/working alongside mainstream students.

### **Wheelchairs**

We ask the wheelchairs come into school clean. Staff will do a quick wipe down of chairs on their arrival of the main points of contact with a wheelchair eg the wheelchair handles.

### **How you can help**

To help create a safe environment for all can you please ensure the following happens before your child/young person comes to school each day:

- Your child/young person has a shower
- Your child/young person wears a washed set of clothes
- Your child/young person has trimmed nails (particularly if they do scratch other people)
- Your child/young person has washed their hands before they leave home.

### **Child/young person is unwell**

Due to the serious nature of the COVID-19 virus the Ferndale School BOT will be providing guidelines on what you will need to do if your child/young person is unwell.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I know that being back at Level 2 isn't what any of us wish for but I feel confident that by working together we can help keep our students and staff safe.

If you have any questions or concerns about Level 2 or any other issue, please contact me on Ph (03) 355 7595 or 027 222 6645 or email [maureen.poulter@ferndale.school.nz](mailto:maureen.poulter@ferndale.school.nz).

Ngā mihi  
Maureen Poulter  
Principal ~ Tumuaki