



**Te Matapuna Aroha – Te Matapuna Whakapono**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whānau,

As you will be aware there has been a great deal of discussion about what will happen for schools at alert Level 3 and it was only at the very end of last week that there started to be further clarification of what this would look like for families and schools.

The Ministry have discussed schooling for students in years 1 to 10 as currently students in year 11 to year 13 + will not be attending school at Level 3. As the Ministry of Education have determined what level 3 looks like for different types of schools for students in years 1-10 they have considered health and safety for all.

**Specialist Schools will not reopen at the beginning of Level 3 (this includes Ferndale School)**

We have received notification that schooling for specialist day schools (this includes Ferndale School) will **not** reopen to students being on site at the beginning of Level 3.

Please find below the statement about specialist schools from the Ministry of Education document describing schooling at Level 3:

"Residential Specialist Schools and Day Specialist Schools will not resume in the early stages of Level 3 for children to physically attend. Teaching staff can return to the school premises and support parents and children at home and can develop plans for a return to physical onsite presence with parents if public health measures can be managed for later in the Alert Level 3 period.

Students enrolled at a Day Special School but attending a satellite unit in a local school may be considered for onsite attendance as part of the host school's roll build up over time. "

**Satellites will also not reopen at the beginning of Level 3**

I have discussed satellite reopening at the early stages of Level 3 with the BOT as there are specific health and safety regulations that need to be followed to safely have students on the school site.

Because few of our students in years 1-10 will be able to follow the required health and safety measures of:

- 1-meter physical distance between all children, young people and staff including inside breaks.
- 2-meter physical distance outside between all children, young people and staff.
- 1-meter physical distance on school transport between all children, young people and staff.
- Students should sit in the same place each day.

The BOT have decided that in the early stages of Level 3 satellites will **not** be able to reopen. I know that this means that students will not be able to return to their classrooms as soon as we would like but given the high level of risk for our students being in a classroom environment this decision will keep all students and staff safe.

**Currently there is no start date for Ferndale School**

Because of this directive from the Ministry of Education that specialist schools will not reopen in the early stages of Level 3 we currently do **not** have a start date for students. We are also aware that there may need to be different start dates for different students due to health and safety requirements but we will share this information with you when we are able to do so.

**Ongoing schooling**

Our teachers will continue to provide the best schooling they can for your child/young person with distance learning. Once again please only do what you can, do not put pressure on yourself when your child/young person simply doesn't want to do learning tasks and activities for you. A home learning environment is very different than a school environment and your child/young person may relate very differently to being asked to do learning tasks at home rather than at school.

**Any support you require**

We are here to support you in any way we can. If you need any support, please let the teachers know when they contact you and we will work to getting the support you need if we can.

As always I am happy to talk with you if you need any further clarification, or would like to make a comment or ask questions and can be contacted on Ph 027 222 6645 or by email [maureen.poulter@ferndale.school.nz](mailto:maureen.poulter@ferndale.school.nz)

Ngā mihi  
Maureen Poulter  
Principal ~ Tumuaki