



**The Federation of
Hackbridge Primary School and Spencer Nursery School**

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Dear Parents/Carers

Y6 PGL Trip – Postponement

As you may be aware, there was a press release late last week about Ofsted suspending the running of four PGL sites who offer childcare over the holidays. I have included the link below. One of these sites is the one we were due to be taking our Year 6 pupils to next Monday.

<https://amp.theguardian.com/education/2021/oct/28/four-activity-centres-in-england-suspended-over-serious-safeguarding-concerns>

As I know you will agree, this has raised many serious concerns with us and so, with the support of the local authority adviser for Outdoor Education, we have been speaking to the centre.

Yesterday, I visited the centre with Miss O'Doherty and the local authority adviser for Outdoor Education to meet with the Chief Executive Officer for PGL and their Head of Standards & Safety to see if they could answer our questions. We were also aware that the Ofsted report has not yet been released, as the inspection only happened last week, and wanted to hear from them what had happened rather than just what the press had reported. They were very honest with us and although they have started to write their action plan, this will not in our view change things by Monday.

Therefore, after talking with the Chair of Governors at length, we have decided the safeguarding concerns in particular are too high risk and that we are not happy to send the children there next week.

The statement from Ofsted can be read here: [Suspension of PGL settings on Ofsted childcare register - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suspension-of-pgl-settings-on-ofsted-childcare-register)
(www.gov.uk)

We are aware that Ofsted have only reported on the arrangements over the holiday period, as that is when PGL offer childcare provision with unaccompanied children attending. Whilst this is considered different to the term time school residential visits where our staff attend with the children, as far as we are concerned the same safeguarding and health and safety procedures should be in place across all of PGL's provision.

PGL are very keen to work with us and once Ofsted's recommendations have been actioned, we will be discussing with them whether the children who were booked to attend can do so later in the school year at no extra cost to the school or parents. If this is not possible, as a last resort, your money will be refunded to you, which PGL have agreed to.

We trust you understand the reasons for this decision, which was not an easy one to make, and would like to thank you for your on-going support. If you have any queries and questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Walford
Headteacher