



28th August 2020

Dear Parents/ carers,

We are aware of the recent announcements in the press regarding the use of face coverings in schools. Our understanding of these announcements is that guidance will be updated to state:

- The DfE and government continue to recommend that face coverings are not necessary in schools
- However, where there is a case of a local lockdown required because of an increase in the number or rate of infections in an area, then students in secondary schools will have to wear a face covering in school corridors and/or communal areas where social distancing is not possible

As always we will continue to review the official guidance as and when it may change. When referring to face coverings we mean fabric (non-medical) face masks, medical face masks (also known as surgical masks) and face visors.

As you are aware, we have put extensive planning in place to restrict any occasions on which we may have congestion and mixing, and therefore the possibility of continued close contact between children from separate cohorts/ bubbles. Our planning also allows staff who wish to avoid using corridors at transition times to do so. At the moment, we do **not** consider that we need to make the wearing of masks mandatory in our school. However, in response to the most recent announcements increasing flexibility for schools, we accept that some students and some staff may wish to wear face coverings in corridors and other communal areas and this will be allowed. You no longer need to inform us if this will be the case.

As I have stated in my previous advice, we are relying on parents to provide a face covering that is the correct size for their child, we will presume that you have taught your child how to apply, wear and remove the face covering safely. We will also be relying on parents to ensure that the face covering is cleaned on a daily basis and children bring a packet of tissues with them for their own use. Ideally any face covering should be plain, we want to avoid situations where they could become a distraction. The complete guidance can be found [here](#):

'When removing a face covering:

- *wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing*
- *only handle the straps, ties or clips*
- *do not give it to someone else to use*
- *if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle*
- *if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric*
- *wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed'*

We are doing everything we can to ensure a positive and happy start to the return to school for our children and staff. We have created clean, well ventilated zones for year groups to learn in, minimizing the risk of cross-contamination. We have also installed automatic hand sanitisers outside every classroom and in all corridor spaces. I will continue to update you and to provide as much clarity as I can to support this aim. Please continue to contact us should you need any further guidance or support; in the meantime, thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Butler
Principal

[Government Guidance](#)

[WHO Advice](#)

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