



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are aware of announcements in the press late yesterday and this morning regarding the use of face coverings in schools. Our understanding of these announcements is that guidance will continue to be updated and currently states:

- The DfE continues 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 an increase 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

We will continue to review the official guidance as it becomes available.

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. Please note face coverings must be completely plain: no logos, emblems or patterns which may cause offense, scare or unnerve anyone in our community.

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. 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. 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.

Darren Turner
Executive Principal