

Face coverings – Updated school policy

The risk assessment and risk assessment action plan is on the school website and is under constant review as we continue through the term. We take on board all feedback from members of the school community in addition to responding to changes in government guidance. As a result of this, we will be changing our policy on the wearing of face coverings in the school. From Wednesday 30 September, it will be **recommended** that students and staff wear a face covering in corridors in the school when they are moving from one lesson to another or going to break or lunch. They are not required to wear them outside or in dining areas including in the sports hall and canteen.

We would also like to make it clear that wearing a face covering in class will remain an individual's choice.

We understand that for some members of the school community, it is not possible to wear face coverings. We would like to reassure those community members that we are sympathetic to their individual needs.

We expect the vast majority of students already have access to face coverings, but if there are any families who, due to financial pressure, are unable to provide these, please contact your daughter or son's student support officer, and provisions will be made for them.

In relation to the safe use of face coverings, please see the guidance below:

How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged.

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession

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

Place in a plastic bag in your bag

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed.