



September 2020

Face masks / coverings in school – Updated guidance

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to clarify the school's position on individuals wearing face masks / coverings in school from the beginning of the September 2020-21 academic year.

The government has recently changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face masks / coverings in schools. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks / coverings should not be necessary in any school. The recent Department for Education advice states:

'The government is revising its guidance on face coverings for staff and children in Year 7 or above in England. Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.'

The government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as [listed on gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), the government's guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning.'

My previous two letters to parents and carers, which are available on the school website, have explained the rigorous steps and control measures that we are putting in place to minimise risks, in readiness for our students and staff returning to school. Currently our local area has a very low rate of Covid 19 infection and transmission. Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of face masks / coverings mandatory in any area of the school. Masks / coverings must be worn if students are travelling to and from school on a bus, as previously stated.

Any student or member of staff who wishes to wear a face mask / covering because it will help them feel more confident in school will be able to do so. Please note that face coverings must not be offensive, and must be worn appropriately and sensibly.

Should our local circumstances change in terms of rates of infection and transmission I will of course review the school's stance on the mandatory use of face coverings in school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr AJ Knowles
Headteacher