

Thursday, 27 August 2020

Dear Parents,

Following the change of [government guidance](#) in relation to face coverings in schools earlier this week, I am writing to confirm an update to our health and safety plans in this area from the start of term.

Although face coverings are not required in schools in areas which are not subject to local lockdown measures, schools have discretion to implement their use on a compulsory or voluntary basis if they wish. In light of the other control measures that we have in place, we have taken the decision to allow all students and staff to wear face coverings in all parts of the school site other than the classroom. This includes the playground, in the corridors and at breaks and lunch. The wearing of face coverings is optional for both staff and students but visitors to the school site will be required to wear them.

We are not permitting the use of face masks in the classroom because of the importance of oral communication for teaching and learning. Teachers and other adults in the classroom will, however, be able to wear a face shield (clear visor) if they wish. We have other control measures in place in the classroom, including students being seated facing in the same direction and social distancing from other adults. Students will be required to remove face coverings before they enter the classroom and may put it back on as they leave.

Face masks can be disposal (medical type) or cloth but should not have motifs or logos. Students will be reminded of the importance of wearing the mask correctly and disposing of any unwanted face masks using the lidded bins that will be provided at the school entrance and each classroom. We will not provide face masks to students and they are not a required part of their school equipment.

I am sorry that we have notified you of this change so close to the start of term, leaving you little time to make purchases. We will, of course, continue to review the advice from the government and will update you if the situation changes.

We're very much looking forward to greeting your child at the start of term and getting their education back on track after such a long time away from the school.

Yours sincerely



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