



### **Guidance on face coverings in schools**

On 25 August the Department for Education (DfE) released further guidance on the use of face coverings in schools, extracts from the guidance are outlined below.

*“Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. **Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.**”*

*On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, **face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.** There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.”*

Having reviewed the guidance and taking into account the movement of pupils around school we will currently not be making face coverings mandatory, but we will keep this under review. Some parents have asked if their child can wear a face mask and if the parent wishes their child to, we will support this decision.

### **Summary on the use of face coverings**

If we were to become a lockdown area the guidance will change.

Travelling to school by public transport or dedicated school transport.	The use of face coverings is mandatory
In classrooms.	Not recommended under current DfE guidance
In corridors.	Due to the one way system we believe that social distancing will be possible and students/staff will spend a short amount of time in corridors so the use of face coverings will be discretionary
In break and lunch venues.	Different year groups will not be mixing with each other, they will be in their year group bubbles so the use of face coverings will be discretionary
Will the school be providing face coverings to students?	No – as the DfE guidance states: “It is reasonable to assume that staff and young people will now have access to face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, and Public Health England has made available resources on how to <a href="#">make a simple face covering</a> .”

Please note the following guidance from the DfE:

“Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.”