
29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this communication finds you and your family well.

Yesterday the Department for Education communicated their decision **to make face coverings compulsory in corridors and communal areas from Tuesday 30 November 2021** following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom. This follows the Prime Minister's announcement of Saturday 27 November in which he announced new temporary measures designed to restrict the transmission of the new variant.

I do want to take this opportunity to share with you that this is a fast moving situation and whilst we will do everything possible to communicate accurate information in a timely manner it is the case that the guidance is very much in an evolutionary stage.

At this present time visitors, members of staff and students (except those who are exempt) will be required to wear a face covering at all times whilst inside the academies' buildings with the exception of inside the classroom and whilst they are eating or drinking. For the time being, face coverings are not required in outside areas.

The protocol for the wearing of face coverings within the 11-16 mainstream academies is as follows:

1. Face coverings should cover the wearer's nose and mouth and loop around each ear. Face coverings must be appropriate: bandanas and scarves are not permitted and face coverings should not have slogans or logos on them. Patterns are acceptable, however, these must be non-offensive and will be permitted at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team.
2. Face coverings should be provided by the wearer.
3. Face coverings should not be worn when damp/wet. It is expected that more than one face covering is brought into the academy each day and that these are changed and washed regularly. Each face covering must be in a clear, resealable zip-lock plastic bag which should itself, be kept in a bag.
4. In line with government guidance at this time, face coverings will not be worn in the classroom.
5. Students and members of staff should place their face covering in position prior to entering the academy building. The face covering should remain in place until within the classroom/lesson. Hand sanitiser must be applied prior to removing the face covering and placing it in the zip-lock bag and then in a main bag. Hand sanitiser must then be applied again.
6. At the end of a lesson the teacher will ask for hand sanitiser to be used prior to face coverings being removed from the resealable bag. Once the face covering has been positioned on the wearer's face the wearer should place the resealable bag back into their main bag and sanitise their hands again.

7. Once a face covering is in place on the wearer's face it should not be removed and the wearer should refrain from touching the covering/their face as much as possible. Where the wearer wishes to remove their face covering to eat, for example at break time or at lunch time, they may do so, providing that they follow the sanitise – remove – sanitise rule (to remove the face covering) and the sanitise – apply – sanitise rule (to reapply the face covering). The face covering should not then be removed until entry into a classroom for the next lesson or when moving to an outside space.
8. Inappropriate use of face coverings will be treated seriously and will be sanctioned in line with academy policy in relation to defiance.
9. Please note that where a student is unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons they will be issued with a green badge to ensure that they are not asked about their lack of face covering. **Students who are in Year 7 and/or whom are new to the academy, should make their form tutor aware they need to be issued with a green badge.**

If you have any questions or concerns about this please do not hesitate to contact a senior member of staff at the respective academy via the academy's info address.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Griffiths
Executive Principal: 11-16 Education