

Response to a change in guidance regarding the wearing of face covering in school.

Government guidance released on the 26th August says:

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

The school **has been given discretion** over use **in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.**

Our school site is campus based, with much movement between rooms being in the open air, our “system of control” to reduce the spread of Covid 19 includes one-way corridors and frequent cleaning of desks and hands.

Despite this, there will be some occasions where students may feel they are not able to effectively maintain distance as they move around the school.

The school will allow students to use a face covering in communal areas at their discretion.

To be effective, guidance is clear that it is vital that face coverings are worn correctly.

We will adopt the following:

- The face covering should be a **reusable** one and students must carry a sealable plastic bag to store their face covering when not worn
- Face coverings must cover the mouth and nose
- Face coverings may not be put into bins other than the one at the removal station outside the hall
- Any student choosing to use a face covering must follow the guidance for taking the face covering on and off correctly
- Face coverings may not be touched whilst on

Correct method for taking a face covering off at the classroom

Clean hands with gel

Remove the covering, aiming to touch only the ties or straps

Seal the covering inside a plastic bag and place this inside your school bag

Cleaned hands with gel again

This routine is to be completed sensibly, quickly and without fuss so that learning is not disrupted, with the reverse applied when the face covering is put on.

Gel is available at the entrance to all classrooms all day and in the restaurant at lunch time only. Students wishing to remove a face covering elsewhere in school should have their own gel supply.

Students with a disposable face covering that they wish to throw away should only do this at the “doffing” station outside the main hall, placing the covering in the yellow lined bins found there. This is to keep our site and cleaning staff safe.

Students must plan for there to be no loss of learning time in their choosing to throw away a face covering at the doffing station outside the hall.

Should the number of Covid 19 cases locally rise, or the school should be contained in an “Area of national government intervention”, this protocol would be reviewed with the support of Public Health England at that time. Face coverings could become mandatory at that time.

Face Coverings in classrooms

Guidance says:

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.

Families who would like to discuss their child using a face covering in classrooms should email phillips.j@mmat.co.uk in the first instance.

In addition

Some students working closely one to one with Access Leaders in the Hub and the Access to Learning base will be contacted individually to discuss the protocol for face covering use in those areas.

Visitors to reception

All visitors to our reception must wear a face covering.

If you should wish to read the full government guidance on the use of face coverings in education, please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>