

## **When will pupils have to wear face coverings?**

**Pupils will have to wear face coverings on school buses, in corridors, stairwells and communal areas.**

*“Face coverings should also be worn in the following circumstances (except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering):*

- *where adults and young people in secondary schools (including special schools and independent and grant aided schools) are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain; and*
- *in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport (see School Transport section).” Scottish Government August 2020*

## **Where are our communal areas?**

Corridors, senior study area, library, office and those areas identified for the different year groups during interval and lunchtime. Pupils are obviously exempt from wearing face coverings when eating. Pupils will not have to wear face coverings in our outside spaces.

Pupils will also be expected to wear face coverings as they arrive through their designated entrances each morning.

## **Do pupils have to wear a face covering in the classroom?**

*“Face coverings should not generally be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments. However, face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or children and young people.” SG August 2020*

Pupils may be asked to wear a face covering in class for a short period of time where an activity is taking place which makes it difficult to maintain 2m social distancing from an adult.

## **Do staff all have to wear face coverings?**

Refer to the statement above. Where staff cannot keep 2m distance they should wear a face covering. Pupils are being asked to wear face coverings when moving in the corridor – if staff are in the corridor during period changes then they should also wear a face covering.

When on duty in the canteen and corridors, staff will wear face coverings.

## **How do we decide if a child is exempt?**

Pupil Support will be involved in identifying pupils who are exempt. If parents think that their child should be exempt, they should contact the Guidance teacher or appropriate Depute Head Teacher. Pupils will be issued with a pass to show that they are exempt.

### **What will the arrangements be for our Deaf pupils?**

Having to deal with people wearing face coverings is obviously extremely challenging for our deaf pupils. If staff or pupils are communicating with someone who is totally reliant on lip reading and facial expressions, then they are exempt from wearing a face covering. We will provide further guidance on this.

*“The impact of wearing a face covering for learners with additional support needs, including any level of hearing loss, should be carefully considered, as communication for many of these learners (including hearing impaired young people) relies in part on being able to see someone’s face clearly. This is also important for children and young people who are acquiring English and who rely on visual cues to enable them to be included in learning.” SG August 2020*

### **Does this mean some of the other measures in place will go?**

No, the use of face coverings is another safety layer.

*“Use of face covering in the circumstances set out in this guidance should be seen as just one mitigation within a package of measures.” SG August 2020*

However, what the introduction of face coverings may do is allow some types of teaching and class organisation to become more manageable. For example, it may be possible for small groups of pupils to come forward and look at a short demonstration if pupils and staff are all wearing face coverings. Please note however that the 2m staff pupil distancing rule remains the default position.

### **Will the school provide face coverings?**

Pupils will be expected to provide and take responsibility for their own face coverings. However, we will have a limited supply available in school.