



14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update Covid-19, face coverings

I am writing to let you know that the Department for Education (DfE) have now published guidance regarding face coverings in schools and this can be accessed using the following link:

[Face coverings in education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The guidance is in line with Step 3 of the Government's Roadmap to ending restrictions. The guidance has some clear statements but also implications that are not so clear. The headline message is that from Monday 17 May 2021 face coverings are no longer strongly recommended to be worn in the classroom. This headline message of course raises the question of face coverings as a safety measure when being worn at other times. Bradford Council in partnership with Public Health England has issued a statement to schools - "As a precautionary measure we also recommend that pupils in secondary schools, special schools and FE colleges continue to wear face coverings in corridors & communal areas in schools (but not in classrooms). Good classroom ventilation will be particularly important to further reduce COVID risk."

Face coverings at TSS

From Monday 17 May 2021 we will continue to ask that our pupils and students wear their face covering on arrival at school and whilst moving around school on corridors, including at the changeover of lessons and whilst in the queue for Café Beans and Café Cosmopolitan. Pupils and students will not be expected to wear a face covering in the classroom, whilst eating and when outside at social times. However, if pupils and students wish to continue wearing their face covering in the classroom and at other times, they will be allowed to do so.

For members of staff and visitors, face coverings will continue to be worn whilst moving on corridors and where it is not possible to maintain social distance.

Face coverings and transport to school

It is important to remember, that as restrictions are eased, many regulations remain in place. Please continue to use face coverings when on school transport. This is based on the regulation for public transport, where children and young people aged eleven and over are required by law to wear a face covering. Public Health England advises that those aged eleven and over must also wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport.

Throughout the last fourteen months our focus has been on ensuring we comply with all statutory guidance in creating as safe an environment as possible for our children, members of staff and visitors. As we work through the easing of restrictions, we will continue to make decisions based on ensuring safety and welfare are the priority. This is the reason we will continue with the wearing of face coverings and implementing all other safety measures of regular hand cleaning, room ventilation, separate year group bubbles and regular cleaning of all surfaces.

I wish to thank you for your continued support and remind ourselves that we have achieved so much by working together through the challenges we have faced in living with a pandemic. Although there is an optimistic way forwards, we must maintain our standards and expectations to provide safety and care.

Yours sincerely

Ian Morrel
Headteacher