



18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update 18 September 2020 Covid-19

I am writing to update you on recent changes to the guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and adjustments we have made to our systems in school. The full guidance for schools can be accessed:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

With this letter is an updated version of the document that details our protocols, policy and practice to provide a full reopening of school in a COVID-19 secure environment. I appreciate it is a lengthy document but one I hope gives reassurance to parents and carers that we are doing all we can within the current advice and guidance to have in place systems and procedures for all aspects of school operational matters.

Face masks

In accordance with the updated guidance from the DfE (below), we expect all pupils, apart from those who are exempt for medical need or for special educational needs to be wearing their own facemask from Monday 21 September 2020 and not expect to wear a face mask provided by school. In cases where there is a genuine reason for not having a facemask, this will be managed by the relevant year team. Pupils who choose to not bring their own facemask to school will be managed by the relevant year team and be given a PBS code in their planner as we view the facemask as an essential piece of equipment/uniform. Those pupils who choose not to wear their facemask in areas of the school where it is expected of them, pupils will receive a PBS code. These codes will count towards a Year Group detention. I appreciate this opening paragraph may appear to some parents/carers as a focus on a negative, but I want to stress the importance of wearing facemasks as a key element to the implementation of safety measures for everyone in school. In addition, it is important that pupils are provided with a resealable plastic bag in which to keep their facemask safe.

Where local restrictions apply

In areas where local lockdowns or restrictions are in place, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils (in years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain such as corridors.

In the event of new local restrictions being imposed, schools will need to communicate quickly and clearly to staff, parents, pupils that the new arrangements require the use of face coverings in certain circumstances.

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing [face coverings](#). This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs.

Access to face coverings

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 make a simple face covering.

However, where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled or unsafe, education settings should take steps to have a small contingency supply available to meet such needs.

No-one should be excluded from education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.

Safe wearing and removal of face coverings

Schools should have a process for removing face coverings when those who use face coverings arrive at school, and when face coverings are worn at school in certain circumstances. This process should be communicated clearly to pupils and staff.

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.

Pupils must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

PE

From Monday 21 September 2020, pupils will be allowed to come to school in their PE kit if they are having PE that day, as detailed in the letter from Mrs Jervis. It is important that pupils have their year group colour coordinated lanyard with them whilst wearing PE kit on the way to school and whilst moving around corridors and between lessons. During lessons pupils will be expected to remove their facemask and place it in a resealable bag which will be provided by members of staff in the PE faculty.

It was decided to implement a programme for PE to support pupils with their health and wellbeing; the systems we have in place are to ensure we can safely deliver a PE curriculum for all year groups. This programme is under review but the system in place should provide for enjoyable PE and exercise.

Revision Guides for KS4

We will not be taking orders and issuing revision guides this year, but we will soon be publishing a list of the titles of the revision guides that we use.

KS4 and KS5 examinations 2021

At this time, we still have not received confirmation of the curriculum content and examination procedures for 2021. You may be aware that there was a limited period of consultation last year following the decision to put in place Centre Assessed Grades in place of examinations in summer 2020. The consultation was to seek responses to a series of questions on whether curriculum content or examination papers and requirements should be adjusted. A summary report on the consultation has been published by Ofqual but, no statement has been made on what examinations will be like for this academic year. The one piece of guidance is regarding BTEC which is that examinations are to continue.

Once again, I wish to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we respond to the advice and guidance published to school.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel
Headteacher