



2 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Update 2 September 2020 Covid-19 – Advice and Guidance regarding face masks**

Further to my letter of 27 August 2020 we have received further advice and guidance both from the Department for Education (DfE) and Bradford Council regarding the use of face masks in a secondary school setting; their advice refers to the advice and guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF

Updated guidance on face coverings in all education settings will be published shortly and will come into effect from 1 September.

Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson said:

Our priority is to get children back to school safely. At each stage we have listened to the latest medical and scientific advice. We have therefore decided to follow the World Health Organisation’s new advice. In local lockdown areas children in year 7 and above should wear face coverings in communal spaces. Outside of local lockdown areas face coverings won’t be required in schools, though schools will have the flexibility to introduce measures if they believe it is right in their specific circumstances. I hope these steps will provide parents, pupils and teachers with further reassurance.

WHO and UNICEF advise that children aged **12 and over** should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.

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.

**Will children have to wear a face covering?**

Bradford council's current guidance to all secondary schools across the Bradford District is to ensure children wear face coverings in school where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in corridors and communal areas.

The government guidance is that this rule should apply to secondary schools in areas of England subject to local restrictions. Although local restrictions will be relaxed in some areas of Bradford District from Wednesday 2 September, Bradford Council wants all schools to apply the rules as if they are in an area of local restrictions. This is because children and young people travel widely across the district, in and out of areas where the local restrictions do and do not apply.

Individual schools will determine if face masks needs to be worn in other parts of the school. Please discuss any concerns you may have regarding face masks with your child's school.

The government has published guidance on face coverings in education

## **Wearing of facemasks**

Based on the advice and guidance we have so far received **we therefore require all pupils to wear facemasks** whilst on the corridor and in communal spaces, except when eating in Café Beans, Café Cosmopolitan or in their designated Year Team Base or outside either in the Curriculum Garden area or the play area at the front of school.

To support learning, pupils will not need to wear a facemask in classrooms or other designated learning spaces, for example, the Dance Studio

The rationale for this advice and guidance is:

1. **To support the reduction in transmission of COVID-19:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state: "Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people"  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

2. **To bring facemask use in line with the requirements in other indoor settings:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

There will be an exemption made for pupils with medical conditions and educational needs. If your child has a medical condition or educational need that means they are exempt from wearing a facemask in school, please contact [enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk) giving details of your child and the reason for the exemption – this information will be kept confidential. Those pupils with an exemption will be provided with a printed card that they can keep with them and display it alongside their identity card on their lanyard, so they are not repeatedly asked why they are not wearing a facemask.

To be compliant with COVID-19 advice and guidance we require all members of staff to either wear a facemask or visor whilst in corridors, communal areas and where social distancing is not possible.

## **Which facemasks are allowed in school?**

I appreciate that in support of your child in adjusting to wearing a mask they may have one that is patterned or has motifs or a wide range of designs on them. We ask that pupils only wear a plain coloured mask whilst in school and not as previously mentioned a snood or scarf. Also, it is important that they bring with them a resealable bag to store the facemask whilst not in use. If your child arrives at school wearing a mask that is not a plain coloured facemask, they will be given a disposable facemask to wear until they are able to purchase a plain coloured facemask. If you have difficulty in obtaining a plain coloured facemask, please contact a member of your child's year team in the first instance.

Once again, I wish to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we respond to the advice and guidance published to school. The wearing of facemasks will inevitably divide opinion amongst parents and carers, but we must work within the advice and guidance we receive from the DfE and Bradford Council.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher