



Monday, 31 August 2020

## Guidance in relation to face coverings

### Do we have to wear face coverings?

Nationwide where Coronavirus rates are falling, the government is not recommending that face coverings are necessary in education settings. However, due to local restrictions in Bury, and higher infection rates, we are now identified as a school that is in Tier One. **This means that every member of HWHS will need to bring a face covering (mask or visor) to school.**

- Face coverings should be plain in colour and in no way offensive or inappropriate for school.
- The covering must securely cover the nose and mouth.



It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly and safe wearing of face coverings requires:

- cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on
- 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.
- Once the mask or visor is put onto their face the pupils should sanitise as they leave the classroom.

**If students are not wearing them correctly or abusing the use of them they will be confiscated by staff and parents will be contacted to resolve this matter.**

In the event of new local restrictions being imposed, we will communicate quickly, and clearly, any new arrangements that require the use of face coverings in certain circumstances.

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## Can we wear face coverings in the classroom?

Whilst we advise against this, following government guidance we will allow face coverings to be worn in the classroom if it is personal preference.

All students will be required to wear a name badge identifying them and their year group. This is to allow members of staff to identify and safeguard children effectively whilst they are wearing face coverings.

As face masks are needed generally day to day we will assume that you can supply your own face coverings. However, if you are struggling to access a face covering, or if you are unable to use your face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become wet, dirty or unsafe, please let your Head of Year know. The school will provide a disposable one that can be used for the day.

## Does everyone have to wear a face covering?

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

Some individuals are **exempt from wearing face coverings** and include:

- those who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability,
- or if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.

The same exemptions will apply in HWHS, and our teachers and other staff will be sensitive to those needs. Children who are exempt will have an identifying symbol on their name badge so that they are not challenged by staff and so that this does not become an issue.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering or you would like to discuss this further please contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Year Leader.

