



15th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Face Coverings

As you will be aware, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Sunderland continues to rise. As a school, we are collectively responsible, along with other members of the community for playing our part in helping to reduce the risk of transmission.

As you know, we have put in place a number of measures to mitigate the risk of transmission between pupils and staff such as year group 'bubbles', zoned teaching areas, front facing desks, staggered arrival and exit times, separate breaks and lunches, enhanced cleaning, sanitiser and tissues.

Creating an environment that minimises the possibility of covid transmission requires appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate risk. Where it is impractical for pupils and staff to adhere to social distancing, additional measures are required. For this reason we decided that it would be mandatory for pupils and staff to wear face coverings in corridors and in communal areas of the school where the ability to social distance is difficult.

We are proud to say that the vast majority of our pupils have been extremely responsible members of the Sunderland community and have worn their face coverings as requested. There are, however, a small number of pupils each day who 'forget' to bring their face covering and whilst we have a limited supply of face masks for genuine cases we cannot sustain this indefinitely.

Please continue to ensure that your child has a face covering that is clean and hygienic and is brought to school every day. Apologies if your child is one of our diligent and responsible pupils who has taken this situation seriously and brings their face covering each day.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Miss Garner
Acting Headteacher

HOW TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed