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**FACE MASKS – GUIDELINES – SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**September 2020**

Following the government’s decision to allow students and staff to wear face masks in secondary schools in England, students are free to wear face masks in school should they wish. If students do wish to wear face masks, they can be worn in communal areas such as corridors. However, current advice does not recommend that students should wear their masks in lessons and we expect students to follow this advice.

We will not be providing masks, so if your child wishes to wear one, please source disposable or washable masks.

We ask that all pupils and staff wear a face mask rather than a face covering. This is due to safeguarding and easily identifying members of our community. All masks should be named.

If an unnamed mask is found discarded or lost, it will unfortunately be disposed of for health and safety reasons. Masks worn at School should fit one of the following criteria:

• Disposable

• Dark in colour (preferably black or navy) and plain in design

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

A face mask 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 (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)

• 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 mask, 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 mask:

• 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