

## Face Coverings

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Following the announcement this week (25<sup>th</sup> August) by the Government and the use of Face Coverings, we are still following DfE guidelines as detailed in our Risk Register.

**At the moment, Wychavon is not designated as a High-Risk Area and therefore Face Coverings are not recommended.**

However, given the latest announcement, students are permitted at their own discretion to wear Face Coverings in corridors, outside spaces, toilets and Henry's should they wish to do so, but not in classrooms.

These must be provided by the students and must be purpose-made / removable / washable or disposable. Scarves, biker masks, novelty masks or inappropriate Face Coverings are not permitted.

Students are advised to have washed their hands / use hand sanitiser, before putting on and following removal of the Face Covering. They should be stored in a bag which is sealable.

**The advice from the Local Authority is that Face Coverings are compulsory on public transport and advisory on school contract services.**

**A summary of the guidance from the DfE is provided below:-**

### **Face Coverings**

*The government this morning published new guidance on face coverings for schools and colleges with learners in Year 7 and above, following the announcement on 25<sup>th</sup> August.*

*Key points from this guidance are as follows:*

- *For schools and colleges in most circumstances (i.e. not subject to local restrictions/lockdowns) **the government is still not recommending face coverings** as necessary in education settings.*
- *However, **schools and colleges have the discretion** to require face coverings for pupils and staff in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.*
- *The use of face coverings in the classroom **should still be avoided** because they "can have a negative impact on learning and teaching".*
- *For schools and colleges in areas **where local restrictions apply**, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.*
- *As in the general approach, **it will still "not usually be necessary" to wear face coverings in the classroom.***
- *Further guidance on face coverings for areas where local restrictions apply will be issued and will come into effect on 1 September.*

- **Staff and pupils will be expected to buy or make their own face coverings.** Schools and colleges will be expected to have a “small contingency supply” available to supplement this.
- The exemptions to wearing face coverings which apply more broadly will also apply in education settings.

### **Public Transport.**

The government this morning published new guidance **on Wearing face coverings when travelling to and from school and college.**

Most children and young people aged 11 and above are now required to wear a face covering on public transport. This does not apply to children and young people who:

- have a disability that means they cannot wear a face covering
- would find wearing a face covering severely distressing
- are travelling with someone who relies on lip reading to communicate

We advise that children and young people aged 11 and over also wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college, apart from those who are exempt.

If your child needs to share a car to school with someone outside of their support bubble or household, they should:

- share with the same people each time
- open the windows for ventilation
- if they are over the age of 11, wear a face covering

If your child has been wearing a face covering before arriving at school or college, they must understand how to remove it and how to keep it or dispose of it safely.

Children and young people must:

- clean their hands before and after travelling to or from their school or college
- put any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin
- place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag that they can take home with them
- clean their hands again before heading to their classroom