



Saint Paul's Catholic High School

26th August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer / Student

Face Coverings in Education

As you may be aware, yesterday the DfE published its new guidance regarding face coverings in education. You will also be aware that areas of Greater Manchester are in currently classified as a high risk area where additional local restrictions apply. On this basis, there will be some additional measures that will come into place during the period of local measures and once these temporary restrictions have been lifted.

We will discuss the requirements with all students at the induction sessions, but these measures will be in place as from 3rd September for years 7 and 11 and from 4th September for years 8, 9 and 10.

Local restrictions period

Consistent with the World Health Organisation's new advice, schools should take additional precautionary measures in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. These areas are defined as areas of national government intervention.

In these local intervention (lockdown) areas, in education settings where Year 7 and above are educated, **face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around. We have taken the view that this means all corridors, the dining area and toilets.** As in the general approach, **it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings outside school or in the classroom**, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.

If a student loses or forgets their face covering we will provide a disposable mask. If a student repeatedly needs a new mask we may ask parents / carers to pay for these using ParentPay.

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly and that your children know how to safely put them on and remove them.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and 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. **We will provide all students with a sealable plastic bag at their induction day.**

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

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Mr A.Hren Headteacher





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On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, **face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.** There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.

Thank you for your continuing support, and as always, we will ensure that we prepare for all eventualities and communicate quickly.

If you have not signed up for ParentApps or are struggling to do so, please do not hesitate to contact our office staff on 0161 499 0000.

Kindest regards

A Hren

Head Teacher

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