

Behaviour Policy

COVID-19 Addendum – Face Coverings in School

Current recommendations on Personal Protective Equipment for pupils and/or staff.

On 25th August, schools were informed that:

From 1st September new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in some schools, and to learners in further education. The World Health Organisation now advise that “children aged 12 and over should wear a face mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.

Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control provides additional mitigating measures. On the basis of current advice, in light of mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even when social distancing is not possible. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.

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, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.’

The implications for Dean Trust schools is:

- Schools in local intervention (lockdown restriction) areas

All staff and pupils will be expected to wear face coverings when moving around the school buildings e.g. on corridors and in communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain, unless where an exemption applies due to a Risk Assessment that has been conducted by the school and it has been determined by the school that a face covering is not appropriate. Face coverings will not be worn in classrooms, unless where an exemption applies due to a Risk Assessment that has been conducted by the school and it has been determined by the school that a face covering is appropriate. There is no expectation for staff

and pupils to wear face coverings when sat down to eat and/or drink during break and lunchtimes, nor is there an expectation for them to wear face coverings whilst outside during break or lunchtime.

- Schools not in local intervention (lockdown restriction) areas

There is not an expectation that all staff and pupils wear face coverings when moving around the school buildings e.g. on corridors and in communal spaces. Staff and pupils nevertheless can wear a face covering at these times should they choose to do so. Face coverings will not be worn in classrooms, unless where an exemption applies due to a Risk Assessment that has been conducted by the school and it has been determined by the school that a face covering is appropriate.

A video from the World Health Organisation 'How to wear a fabric mask safely' can be located at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=27&v=9Tv2BVN_WTk&feature=emb_logo

Where a school is in a local intervention (lockdown restriction) area, and there is an expectation that face coverings are worn when moving around the school buildings e.g. on corridors and in communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain, then the face covering will be regarded as part of the school's uniform expectations during the time the area where the school is located remains under local restrictions. It is therefore the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their children adhere to this expectation.

The school will support pupils and parents/carers and listen to any concerns that they may have about the government's expectations regarding the wearing of face-coverings on corridors and internal communal areas where a school is in a locally restricted area. In exceptional circumstances, the school may agree to an exemption from these government expectations although the wider safety of the school community must be prioritised so that the risk of virus transmission is reduced.

Where a school is in a local intervention (lockdown restriction) area, and a pupil refuses to wear a face-covering, then this will be regarded as a disciplinary issue because the pupil is not being considerate of other pupils and staff safety and is therefore putting them at heightened risk of infection.

Where parents/carers inform the school that they, or their child, do not wish to wear a face-covering in school which is in a local intervention (lockdown restriction) area, the school will supportively explain the expectations of government guidance and the impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of the wider school community. If the parents/carers or child still choose not to agree to those expectations then the pupil

will be supported to work remotely from home until that time that the area is removed from being a local intervention (lockdown restriction) area.