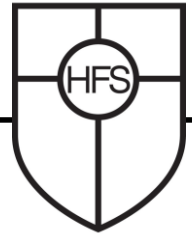


The Holy Family



Catholic School

Our Ref: SMA/DK

2 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my letter dated 26 August, I am writing to clarify the situation regarding the wearing of face coverings on the way to and from school and during the school day.

The government's latest guidance is as follows:

The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. Schools that teach children in Years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances. Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.

In particular, schools that teach Years 7 and above may decide to recommend the wearing of face coverings for pupils, staff or visitors in communal areas outside the classroom where the layout of the schools makes it difficult to maintain social distancing when staff and pupils are moving around the premises, for example, corridors.

In primary schools where social distancing is not possible in areas outside of classrooms between members of staff or visitors, for example in staffrooms, headteachers will have the discretion to decide whether to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to them wearing face coverings in these circumstances.

Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.

In areas where local lockdowns or restrictions are in place, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils (in Years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain such as corridors.

As the school is an area that is currently subject to local lockdown restrictions, face coverings will need to be worn by all students and staff in corridors and other communal areas. Face coverings will not be worn in lessons.

To support us with adhering to the guidance, please ensure your child(ren) bring with them a **plain face covering that is suitable for use several times throughout the day**. This does not need to be a medical grade face covering but must cover the nose and mouth. Students will also need a sealable plastic bag (such as a zip lock sandwich bag) to use to store their face covering when it is not in use. The advice for handling of face coverings is as follows:

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.

Pupils must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

The school has all measures in place to support the safe handling of face coverings. It is however, important that students follow staff instructions regarding this at all times. It would be very helpful if you could speak to your child(ren) before their return to school next week and explain these requirements and expectations to them. These requirements will also be reiterated regularly by school staff.

We understand there may be some students who may be exempt from wearing face coverings for medical reasons. If this applies to your child(ren) please contact Mrs Azad at office@holyfamilyschool.uk or via MyEd as soon as possible to inform us. We will then make arrangements for their needs to be accommodated.

When travelling to and from school using either public or dedicated school transport, the latest guidance states that face coverings should be worn by children and young people aged 11 and above. This does not need to be a medical grade face covering but must cover the nose and mouth. Students should also adhere to social distancing wherever possible whenever using public or dedicated school transport. Please ensure your child(ren) understand this information prior to them leaving for school on the first day back.

Finally, in my previous letter, I mentioned that for the moment we are unable to provide a tuck shop at breaktime. The latest guidance also states that communal water fountains should not be in use for the moment so as such, please ensure students bring a healthy drink – preferably water- with them for breaktime. Please do not allow them to bring energy drinks with them such as Red Bull, Monster, Relentless etc. as these do not support a healthy, balanced diet. Students may also bring water for drinking during lessons if they wish. Bottled water will be available for students to buy from the canteen at lunchtime.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. I will be in touch with any further developments as they happen. Please also keep an eye on the school website as updated information will also be published there.

Yours sincerely



S Mather (Ms)
Interim Headteacher