

**Head of Education: Linda McAulay-Griffiths**

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**Our Ref:** LMCA/MMcK

**Date:** 26 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Young People

By now, I am sure that you will have seen the significant news coverage and announcements about young people and the use of face coverings in secondary schools and on school transport. I wanted to ensure that I wrote to you all personally to ensure that we have a consistent and, more importantly, caring message across our authority in this regard. We are asking for all of our young people and their parents and carers to exercise their ongoing duty of social responsibility and work alongside us in keeping young people, staff, and your families and communities safe from the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

### **Face Coverings – Definition and Care**

A face covering covers the chin, mouth and nose and is not necessarily a medical face mask, but these can be worn. A face covering is made of preferably two layers of cloth and should be washed nightly at 60 degrees or more, or in boiling water. More information is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

### **Transport**

As has always been the case on public transport, young people over the age of 5 will also now require to wear a face covering on school transport. We ask that parents and carers work alongside us in ensuring that their young people are ready to travel, by ensuring they have their face covering with them.

### **Face coverings in schools**

As of Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August, we now ask and encourage ALL secondary age young people to wear face coverings in corridors and other crowded places where social distancing is difficult. All of our young people (primary and secondary) have been welcome to wear a face covering in **any** area of school since we returned and we now ask for the full cooperation of secondary pupils in bringing a face covering to school for their own use to comply with this new guidance. I know that our young people will fully understand their duties in this regard, and a face covering will only be made available by school in the case of a young person forgetting theirs, or in an issue around access to such a resource. Parents should alert the school in the case of any difficulty with this.

### **Exemptions**

We are absolutely aware that some of our young people cannot and should not wear a face covering for extremely valid reasons. Your school will work alongside you to help clarify this and the link above may help parents in this situation. We expect that all other pupils will wear a face covering in the circumstances above, however, as per guidelines, no pupils will be excluded from education for not doing so.

**Wellbeing**

We know that these are anxious times for us all and our schools and teams are all set to help your young person settle into these new ways of working and learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you at this stage, who alongside our staff and teams, are doing a tremendous job of keeping everyone safe. I hope that you will continue to work alongside us in ensuring that this next development can be enacted in a responsible and caring way to continue to protect everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda McAulay-Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS  
**Head of Education**