

Rosshall Academy

Guidance on Face Coverings



From **Monday 31st August 2020**, all secondary school pupils and adults in Scotland should wear a face covering when moving around corridors and when in communal areas in school where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

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What is a face covering?



A face covering can be a covering of any type that covers the mouth and nose. It is recommended that it be made of cloth or other textiles and should preferably be at least two layers thick, and through which you can breathe. Religious face coverings that cover the mouth and the nose count as face coverings for these purposes. Transparent face coverings which assist communication for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions can also be worn.

When should I wear a face covering?



In Rosshall Academy you should wear a face covering:

- In all corridors, at the start and end of the day and when moving from class to class
- In any communal area (e.g. social space, toilets and games hall) where physical distancing is difficult to maintain

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What about in classes?



Given the dimensions of classrooms in Rosshall, you are also encouraged to wear face coverings in your classes, where physical distancing is not normally possible.

There will be times when a face covering may not be appropriate, for example during presentations or speaking assessments. Please ask if you are unsure.

Why should I wear a face covering?



- 1) The volume of evidence supporting the scientific position on a key benefit of face coverings (to protect others from infection by the wearer) has grown.
- 2) There is emerging scientific evidence to suggest that the wearer of a face covering can also be protected.
- 3) It is difficult to physically distance in schools. We have a school roll of over 1250 pupils with limited space – this measure is to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.



It helps us all to protect each other



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What if I am exempt?

We know that some people are exempt from wearing face coverings e.g. if:



- you have a health condition or additional support need that means wearing a face covering could cause difficulty, pain, stress or anxiety
- you are communicating with someone else who relies on lip reading and facial expressions to communicate
- You need to eat, drink or take medication

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But we all need to eat and drink!!



Yes – we all need to eat and drink. When temporarily removing a face covering you should, where possible, maintain 2 metres distance as physical distancing is one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of the virus.

When you have finished eating and drinking, you should replace your face covering immediately.

What if people don't want to wear one?



The new guidance on face coverings in schools has been introduced to protect everybody in our school community and your families. We all have that responsibility.

If you are worried about wearing a face covering, please speak to your Pastoral Care teacher or another member of staff such as your Personal Support teacher.

Please be aware that any pupils not wearing a face covering may be exempt – don't question this and always treat each other with kindness.



Will school staff be wearing face coverings?



The same advice about wearing face coverings when moving around corridors and when in communal areas in school applies to school staff. Pupils should also continue to ensure you are maintaining 2 metres physical distancing from staff.

Please be aware that some staff not wearing a face covering may also be exempt. We should not question this and we should always treat each other with kindness.



How should I look after my face covering?



- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Sanitise your hands before putting on or removing the face covering
- Make sure the face covering covers your nose, mouth and chin.
- Keep the face covering in a clean bag or container (e.g. freezer bag or tupperware)
- Avoid placing face coverings on surfaces or desks
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed every day (information is in a letter to parents)
- Disposable face coverings must not create litter – please use the bins available

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What if I don't have a face covering?



For hygiene reasons, it is recommended that you supply your own face covering. If you don't have a face covering, please speak to your Pastoral Care teacher.

They have a small supply of disposable masks.

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Face coverings from 31st August 2020

**As a community we must all play
our part to keep each other safe**



Start now!

