

Our ref: MR/TM

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Dear Parent

Advice for Parents on Face Coverings for S4-S6 pupils

We are now encouraging young people in S4 – S6, to wear face coverings in school when it may be difficult for them to socially distance, such as:

- When moving between classes, going for lunch or at interval; and
- When out in the community at lunchtimes.

Schools will raise awareness amongst children, young people and staff about the correct way to remove and store face coverings but it would be helpful if you could encourage your child to bring one to school each day.

We would prefer people to use reusable cloth coverings but disposable face coverings can also be used. You should wash cloth face coverings regularly in accordance with current advice.

Young people will not be challenged by members of staff for not wearing a face covering as there may be a very good reason why they can't. We would ask for you and your child's co-operation in this matter.

Pupils in this age group should already be wearing face coverings where it is difficult for them to socially distance, such as in shops or on public transport. Some of them will also be expected to wear them as they go between schools as part of the Council's consortium arrangements.

Scottish Government guidance allows schools to encourage face coverings to be worn as part of the measures which are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

'Anyone (whether child, young person or adult) wishing to wear a face covering in school should be enabled to do so. Evidence suggests that face coverings do not provide significant protection for the wearer, rather they primarily reduce the risk of transmission and help suppress the virus. As the wearing of face coverings/masks becomes more commonplace in Scotland, it is possible that more people may choose to wear a face covering in the school setting, particularly on the initial return to school. Should the prevalence of the virus in the population start rising, nationally or in parts of Scotland, schools may wish to encourage the wearing of face coverings, especially among adults and older young people in secondary schools, as part of an enhanced system of approaches to reduce transmission.'

We thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter.

Yours truly,

Michael Roach
Head of Education

Tony McEwen
Head of Culture, Communities and Educational resources