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Date: 28 August 2020



Education and Families

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Dear Parent/carer

Face Coverings in School

On Tuesday 25th August the Scottish Government provided updated advice on the issue of face coverings in schools. This advice is effective from Monday 31st August 2020.

The key benefit of face coverings is the protection of others from infection by the wearer. There is also emerging evidence to suggest that the wearer of a face covering can be protected.

A face covering can be a covering of any type, except a face shield, that covers the mouth and nose. It is recommended that it be made of cloth or other textiles and should be at least two layers thick, and through which you can breathe.

Anyone wishing to wear a face covering all day in school is permitted to do so.

Face coverings will generally not be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments. However, face coverings will be worn by adults where they cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or children and young people.

Face coverings will also be worn in the following circumstances (except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering):

- **where adults and young people in secondary schools are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets and the Social Area) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain; and**
- **in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport**



It is vital that parents and carers provide clear instructions on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings in all of the circumstances above. This will help keep the risk of transmission low.

The key points are as follows:

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- The face covering should be the right size to cover the nose, mouth and chin. Children should be taught how to wear the face covering properly, including not touching the front and not pulling it under the chin or into their mouth.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Children and young people should be encouraged not to litter and to place their face coverings in the general waste bin. They are not considered to be clinical waste in the same way that used PPE may be.
- Masks should not be associated with any football team or have slogans which could potentially offend.

If anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled/unsafe, we have a contingency supply available to meet such needs.

If you feel that your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering then please contact their Principal Teacher of Pupil Support stating the reason for the exemption.

More information on face coverings can be found on the Young Scot website, FACTS at Secondary School.

John Robertson
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Calderhead High School