



Archdiocese of Birmingham



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Head Teacher

Mrs T Davis

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your family have enjoyed the summer so far, despite the additional challenges we all face at this moment. Many of you will be aware that we are due to convert to an academy with effect from September 1st. Whilst there will be little visible change to provision on a daily basis, certain policies which underpin our work will now be shared across the Multi-Academy Company (MAC).

As you will be aware, there is current discussion at government level regarding the use of **face coverings**. The school position is as follows:

- We are not asking pupils to wear face coverings.
- If a parent of a child (Y1+) chooses to send them with a face covering, this will be allowed. Fabric coverings which are washable are the preferred option. Further guidance about the suitability of face coverings are included below.
- We will not help pupils with face coverings.
- We will ask them to remove them if they are having difficulty with them – they will be returned in their bag and you will be informed.
- Pupils wearing masks would have to do so at all times (except to eat/drink) so that they are not constantly touched and removed.
- Pupils have to wash their hands each time that they add or remove the mask.

The MAC have shared their position regarding the use of face coverings in school which I would like to share with you in advance of the start of term:

Can my child wear an appropriate face mask /covering at school?

Currently, the government are not requesting that primary aged children wear masks in school, unless there is a case of local lockdown, when this may be reviewed. However, the school supports those who wish to wear suitable face coverings. Our school supports the wearing of appropriate face coverings / masks where it is safe and practicable to do so, particularly indoors. At the moment, this is a personal choice for you to make with your child. The school supports the wearing of fabric masks as detailed on GOV.UK. Anyone wishing to wear a face covering in school should be enabled to do so, as long as it is appropriate for the young person concerned. The wearing of a suitable fabric face covering, particularly for those aged 11 years and above, will be strongly recommended should local infection rates increase. Please note that WHO recommends that children aged 5 and under should not wear masks.

My child is young and struggles with wearing a face covering, but I want them to wear one, what should I do?



Face coverings used incorrectly can accelerate transmission risks. As a parent it is important that you are confident that your child understands how to wear, put on and remove a face covering safely (see protocol attached). The school will not monitor this during the day. You may decide that it is better that your child does not wear a face covering. If your child has any underlying medical conditions, you should discuss the wearing of masks / face coverings with your GP or specialist. Should pupils not adopt safe protocols, the school reserves the right to contact home and / or direct pupils to safely dispose of their mask. Please note, the World Health Organisation does not currently recommend face coverings for children aged 5 and younger. Pupils who are wearing masks will be expected to keep them on at all times, other than for eating and drinking, as repeatedly touching the mask increases the risk of virus transmission.

What type of face covering should I provide my child with?

Remember, face coverings are reported to be more appropriate for older children / young adults. Should they / you wish them to wear a fabric covering please refer to government guidance: [Guidance for manufacturers and makers of face coverings to comply with the General Product Safety Regulations 2005](#)

[Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#)

Please note that face masks with valves are not currently recommended in community settings.

Can my child wear any colours, logos etc. on their face covering?

Pupils who choose to wear coverings only wear plain grey, black or white fabric coverings. It is important that masks are for health and safety reasons and do not promote other issues, concerns, views etc. Staff who wish to wear masks will be able to have child-friendly designs. If a pupil attends school with a face covering that does not conform to this, they will be directed to safely dispose of this immediately.

Will school provide my child with a face covering?

No, the school will keep PPE available for staff caring for children and pupils with medical and complex needs. The choice to wear and buy a suitable covering for your child is your responsibility.

How should a face covering be worn and removed safely?

Government guidance is as follows, please check regularly for updates at [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#)

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged



“Let your words teach and your actions speak”

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed.'

What should my child do if they want to remove their mask in school?

Ensure that your child has a safe disposable bag to place the mask in and tie, before placing in an allocated lidded bin. These bins are located at the first aid area.

I do not want my child to wear a mask.

The wearing of appropriate face coverings is currently a choice for you and pupils to make. All staff and pupils respect the likelihood that some pupils and staff do not wish to wear a face covering whilst infection rates are low and / or cannot wear face coverings due to their specific needs.

Should you require any further guidance, please refer to GOV.UK online and do not hesitate to contact the school by phone or email. Please do not attend the school office / reception in person at this time.

Wishing you and your family a safe summer and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back soon.

Kindest wishes,

Mrs T Davis
(Head Teacher)



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