

5 November 2020

Dear parent/carers,

Yesterday evening, the Government updated their advice for schools as follows:

In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

It will therefore be compulsory that from Monday 9th November all pupils come to school wearing a face mask and follow the guidance as outlined below.

Please ensure your child has a well-fitting facemask, preferably reusable, and a sealable plastic bag to keep it in.

Face masks must be worn under the strict conditions below, which are in line with scientific advice:

1. The mask is worn correctly the entire time (see attached poster).
2. Masks may only be worn when using corridors or other communal areas e.g. the canteen.
3. Masks should not be worn in the classroom or any practical lesson. Masks must be removed if instructed by a member of staff.
4. When not in use, masks should be placed in a sealable hygienic plastic bag.
5. The mask must be plain, changed daily and taken home for disposal or replacement. Bandanas and similar coverings are not permitted.

If you have specific concerns, or your child is exempt from wearing a face mask, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to navigate our way through 2020.

Yours sincerely



**Francis Galbraith
Principal**



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

How to use Face Coverings

ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER WEARING A FACE COVERING

Correct Covering

Medical masks should be reserved for health workers or patients in treatment.

If you have been advised to wear a medical mask, always have the coloured side showing and the metal band at the top of your nose.



Check Your Fit

Check that the face covering is made from a fabric that you are comfortable wearing.



Check that it is easy to fit and completely covers your nose and mouth, all the way down under your chin.

Tighten the loops or ties so it's snug around your face, without gaps. If there are strings, tie them high on top of the head to get a good fit. Do not touch or fidget with the face covering when it is on.



DO NOT:

Wear the face covering below your nose.



DO NOT:

Leave your chin exposed.



DO NOT:

Wear it loosely with gaps on the sides.



DO NOT:

Wear it so it covers just the tip of your nose.



DO NOT:

Push it under your chin to rest on your neck.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

ALWAYS wash your hands before and after handling your face covering.

ALWAYS change your face covering if it is dirty, wet or damaged.

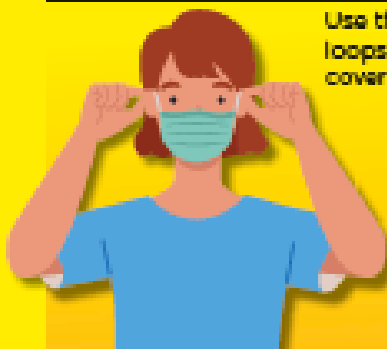
Carry unused face coverings in a sealable clean waterproof bag, for example, a ziplock.

Carry a second similar type bag, to put used face coverings in.

CHILDREN UNDER 13 should not wear face coverings.

ALWAYS wash cloth face coverings on the highest temperature for cloth.

Safe Removal



Use the ties or ear loops to take the face covering off.

Do not touch the front when you take it off.

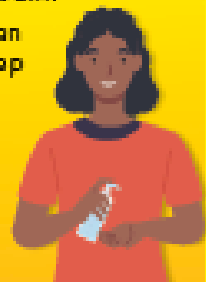
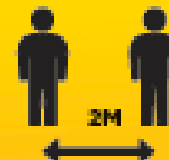


Disposing Of Single-Use Mask



Always dispose of single-use masks properly in a bin.

Don't forget to clean your hands and keep social distance.



Stay safe. Protect each other.



Riannas Míneola
Government of Ireland