



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Friday 28th August 2020

Dear Families,

From 1 September 2020, new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in schools and other education institutions that teach pupils in Years 7 and above in England. This guidance can be found on the Government [website](#). In areas where local restrictions are in place, including Tameside, it will be mandatory for students and staff to wear a face covering in school areas where social distancing is difficult.

The wearing of face coverings puts in place an additional prevention measure to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19, alongside other important measures we have in place in school including:

- Social distancing where possible;
- Hand washing for at least 20 secs with soap and water or hand sanitisation;
- Encouraging good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach;
- Enhanced cleaning in the school/educational setting.

I am therefore writing to you to inform you that when your child returns to school next week, they will be required to wear a face covering in the school, in areas where it may be particularly difficult to maintain social distancing as staff and pupils are moving around the premises.

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly reassure parents and pupils that the guidance has not come into place because schools are considered a high risk environment for COVID-19, but that the wearing of face coverings is an additional prevention measure to help ensure the transmission of COVID-19 remains low in the borough.

WHAT CONSTITUTES AS A FACE COVERING AND WHERE TO ACCESS ONE

Please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a face covering every day. The national guidance definition of a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings can be worn. Learners may also wear a religious garment or a hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face. Face coverings are now part of the school uniform for all students, unless they are exempt from wearing a face covering.

Face coverings should be plain in colour and be either black, grey or maroon. Given the government only released guidance on face coverings in the past few days, we will allow students to wear plain face masks of any colour until Monday 15th September 2020.

Learners are allowed to wear disposable medical face masks.

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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WHEN TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

At Rayner Stephens, learners will be required to wear a face covering when:

- On corridors
- In indoor social areas, e.g. canteen (when not eating)
- In toilets
- In lessons (optional)

Face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom as the school has put in place a system of controls for minimising risk, including keeping children in consistent groups or bubbles, and ensuring greater physical distancing by staff and children within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on communication, learning and teaching.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT/CARER?

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly. Clear instructions will be provided to staff, children and young people on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings to avoid unknowingly increasing the risks of transmission of the virus. Click [here](#) for the government's guidance on maintaining reusable face coverings.

Before returning to school, we would like to encourage parents and carers to support their child to feel comfortable wearing a face covering, by practising the handling of the face covering, putting it on and off safely, using the guidance provided, and storing it whilst not in use.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, their families and staff in supporting this additional prevention measure. If you have any questions or concerns or you are struggling to access face coverings or you feel your child will be unable to wear a face covering, please contact your child's Learning Leader, who will be available in school from Tuesday 1st September 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Ms F Beach
Head Teacher

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **Government Guidance:**

Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

2. **Asthma UK**

Should I wear a face mask or face covering?

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/what-should-people-with-asthma-do-now/should-i-wear-a-face-mask-or-face-covering/>

3. **Epilepsy Action**

Are face coverings (face masks) safe for people with epilepsy?

<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/daily-life/safety/coronavirus-covid-19>

4. **Disability Right UK**

Disabled people exempt from transport face covering rules

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2020/june/disabled-people-exempt-transport-face-covering-rules>