

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

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27th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Face Coverings in School

As you may be aware, on 25th August Scottish Government updated their [guidance](#) to schools, in particular that relating to the wearing of face coverings in Secondary. A definition of face coverings (which should not be confused with PPE) can be found [here](#).

From Monday 31st August, face coverings should be worn by adults and young people in secondary schools moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain.

This applies to all staff and pupils from S1 to S6 except where the person is [exempt](#). It also applies to any visitors to the school including parents. At this time, there is no requirement on Primary age children to wear masks.

Some key points for noting are

- 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.
- Make sure the face covering is 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.
- There is no requirement to wear a face covering in the classroom.
- No-one will be excluded from education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.
- Face coverings should be plain. Football colours, advertising logos etc. are not permitted.

The guidance indicates that it is reasonable to assume that most staff and young people will now have access to re-usable face coverings. The Scottish Government has made available a [video](#) on how to make a simple face covering.

The school has a small stock of disposable masks for anyone who is unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled/unsafe. However, it defeats the purpose of the exercise if any appreciable number of pupils are queuing at reception to acquire a face mask.

As always, if compliance with this guidance poses a financial barrier for any family you are welcome to speak to the bursar in confidence.

We would also wish to take this opportunity to emphasise that this guidance sits alongside the other key message for pupils

- **Wash Hands** with soap regularly for at least 20 seconds
- **Catch Your Cough** – use a tissue to catch it, then bin and kill it (give your child tissues to carry)
- **Don't Touch Your Face** to help prevent spreading germs
- **Keep Your Distance** – stay 2m away from adults

Pupils should not be sent to school if they display any COVID-19 symptoms. On Tuesday the First Minister stated that this does not apply to routine sniffles and mild non-COVID symptoms. We anticipate some further guidance on such matters.

Where a pupil becomes unwell during the school day and displays COVID-19 symptoms they should immediately seek help from a member of staff.

If the course of the first two weeks of the session we have been consulting with pupils and staff as to how our arrangements are working out. While there are of course some downsides, generally everyone can see the benefits resulting from the asymmetrical day and the reduction in pressure on communal areas that results.

We have received some requests from parents to go beyond or to ignore some aspects of Scottish Government guidance. We will at all times work within such guidance tailored to our specific environment. We anticipate further guidance will emerge shortly on a range of matters including P.E. and sport. However, we wish to consider changes as an integrated package rather than presenting them to parents on a piecemeal basis which may cause confusion.

As an all-through integrated school we have to consider the potential impact on all pupils of changes for specific age groups. At present we will be continuing with the staggered start and end to the day for the various Primary stages and in Secondary. This along with all other aspects of our arrangements will be kept under review.

Thank you for your cooperation to date. If you have any questions regarding face coverings or any other matter, then please contact the school.

Kindest regards
Paul Thomson