

Face coverings in schools: how to make it work.

Some guidance for your son/daughter as they **will need** to wear a face covering when moving through shared areas at school from today.

When will my child need to wear a face covering at school?

Your child will need to wear a face covering at our school

- This measure has now become **mandatory** as on Saturday 31st October the Prime Minister announced [new national restrictions](#). Yesterday, after school had ended for the day, the DfE sent out it's updated guidance for schools with information about what the [new national restrictions mean for education and childcare settings](#). From today, 5th November, 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 when queuing for food in the canteen where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Where exactly will my child need to wear it in school?

- All pupils and adults will need to wear a face covering when they move around indoor areas outside of classrooms, in corridors and when entering the canteen for lunch where it is difficult to stick to social distancing.
- They won't need to wear it outside.
- They won't need to wear it in their classrooms.
- They won't need to wear it when seated to eat or drink in the canteen. They must put a face covering back on once they finish eating or drinking.
- Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary schools or on public transport to school.

What will my child need?

Your child needs to come to school with:

- A **face covering**. We'd recommend a reusable one so that they can use it more than once, as they'll need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this isn't an option, they will need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day.
- A **sealable plastic bag** to keep their face covering in when they're not using it so that it doesn't contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school

Where can I get a face covering?

- Reusable and single-use face coverings are now widely available to buy in shops or online
- If you want to [make your own face covering](#), instructions are widely available online.
- A local entrepreneur has made available a small bag on a key ring which contains 2 washable face coverings. These fit into a blazer pocket or attaches to a bag or keys. These can be bought via School Gateway for £5.50.
- Supervise your child if they'll be making it themselves

How should my child use their face covering?

- Watch [this video](#) from the World Health Organisation with your child so they know how to wear their face covering safely. We'll watch this in class too.
- Their face covering needs to cover their nose and mouth when they're wearing it
- They shouldn't touch the front of the face covering or the part that's touched their mouth or nose
- They should wash their hands before and after touching the face covering, including to take it off or put it on. They should store it in an individual, sealable plastic bag between uses
- If it becomes damp, they shouldn't wear it, and they should replace it carefully
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use (**not** in a recycling bin)

How often will it need to be washed?

- Reusable face coverings will need to be washed at the end of each day, ready for your child to wear the next day
- If your child has taken a spare reusable mask from school, this will also need to be washed before they use it again
- You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent

What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

- They won't need to wear one in school
- Some individuals are [exempt from wearing face coverings](#) and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

What if my child forgets their face covering?

- We'll have a small supply of spares available at school
- To be safe in the knowledge that everyone has one, please make sure your child has their own so that we can keep our supply of spares for emergencies