



14 May 2021

Update: Wearing Face coverings in School

Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday 10 May the Government announced further details regarding the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. The Department for Education have confirmed that face coverings are no longer required to be worn by students, in the classroom or in communal areas around the school. The guidance states:

From the 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

After careful consideration, we have decided to follow the guidance set out by the Department for Education, and so from the 17 May students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in the classroom or in the communal areas around school. If students wish to continue wearing their face covering in class or around the building we will fully support their decision.

Currently transmission rates in Halton are being reported as low and following a review of our risk assessment we feel that this is the right decision for the school community. However, should local transmission rates begin to rise, we will need to consider a temporary reinstatement of face coverings in school in order to support the lowering of transmission rates. We will keep our risk assessment under constant review and update parents and carers accordingly if and when any changes may apply.

The table below indicates the requirements for wearing face coverings based on transmission rates that we will follow:

Transmission rates	Students	Staff
Low transmission rates	No face coverings in classrooms or communal areas	Face coverings to be worn where social distancing is not possible
Increase in community / school transmission rates	Face coverings to be worn in communal areas	Face coverings to be worn where social distancing is not possible
High community / school transmission rates	Face coverings to be worn in classrooms and communal areas	Face coverings to be worn in classrooms and communal areas

As always, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Corner
Principal