



Nov 2020: The wearing of face coverings in school

Dear parent/carer,

As you are aware, the government's intention is that there should be no further disruption, than is absolutely necessary, to education. At Winterhill, we fully support this view, and therefore, school has continued to run as normal since September. Of course, since the full reopening of school, our number one priority has been to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. Therefore, as tiered and then national restrictions have been put in place you will be aware, **that all students are expected to wear a face covering (plain or a disposable, medical covering) on entry and exit to school, on corridors, between lessons and during social times**, unless medically exempt.

Of course, we have put procedures in place **to support our students in ensuring they have a face covering with them at all times**. This includes giving out masks on entry to the school site and reminding students to put on their mask at the end of each lesson and the school day.

As this expectation has been in place for a number of weeks, I would like to emphasise that all students must follow our school values of 'respect', 'responsibility' and 'resilience' by ensuring they have a mask with them at all times and that they are wearing it as required: **on entry and exit to school, on corridors, between lessons and during social times**. For students with known medical conditions and for clinically vulnerable staff, it is recommended that a face covering is also worn in classroom settings. The students or staff in this category, have been contacted separately.

For students who are medically exempt from wearing a face covering, these students may feel more comfortable in showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering. This could be in the form of an exemption card, badge or lanyard which they would have received from medical services. This would prevent these students from being asked about their face coverings by staff.

However, for all other students, if they are found to be persistently without a face covering or not wearing their face covering when they are required to do so, as with any of our school expectations, we will follow the school consequence system. As I have stated above, our number one priority is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, and so the wearing of face coverings, in required areas, it vital to continuing our high standards.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Rhodes

Headteacher