

# Face coverings in schools Guide for Parents

Here's what you and your child can expect now secondary pupils in local lockdown areas will need to wear a face covering when moving through shared areas at school.

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

Your child will need to wear a face covering at our school: [delete/edit as appropriate for your school]

- Only if our school is in a local lockdown area, or if this becomes the case. We'll let you know by [insert method of communication] if this does become the case. We'd recommend reading this factsheet and securing a face covering for your child so you're prepared
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## Where exactly will my child need to wear it in school?

- They'll need to wear it when they move through shared indoor areas of the school where it's difficult to stick to social distancing. This includes corridors and common rooms
  - They **won't** need to wear it outside or in their classrooms
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## 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. Their face covering should be secured to your child's head using ear loops only
  - 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
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## Where can I get a face covering?

- Reusable and single-use face coverings are available to buy in shops or online
  - We've attached instructions from the government on how to make a cloth face covering
  - Supervise your child if they'll be making it themselves
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## 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)
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## 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
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## What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

- They won't need to wear one in school
  - Please let us know by contacting your child's progress leader if your child [is exempt](#) so that we don't ask them to wear a face covering
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## What about my younger child?

- This guidance on wearing face coverings doesn't apply to children under the age of 11
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## 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

### Sources

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders, based on the following sources. All information is correct as of 11am Wednesday 26 August.

- [Face coverings in education](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#), GOV.UK – DfE