



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



12 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister on 10 May 2021 regarding the further easing of restrictions, detailed guidance has been published by the government on the gov.uk website with regard to the wearing of facemasks and after deliberation with the Senior Leadership Team, it has been decided that we will be following that guidance. This will come into effect on Monday 17 May 2021, but until then students will be expected to continue to follow existing mandatory guidance and the wearing of a face mask must be adhered to. This guidance will not change for travelling on the school bus, students MUST continue to follow existing protocols and face masks MUST be worn.

Below is a brief summary of the guidance.

As part of the Step 3 roadmap, it has been determined that it is no longer necessary to recommend the additional precautionary face covering measures that we recommended from the 8 March. The decision to lift further restrictions at Step 3 has followed a review of the latest data on infection and vaccination rates. From 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).

The reintroduction of face coverings for students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission.

In the interests of the health of our school community and the wider community, we will require the following to be adhered to:

- Students must wear a mask inside the school buildings when moving around in corridors and in communal areas. This is not optional.
- For Year 11s doing assessments who require additional support such as a reader or a scribe, the student and reader/scribe will be required to wear a mask.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION THAT MAKES THE WEARING OF A MASK NECESSARY OR PREFERABLE, THEY MAY CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK. ANY STUDENT WHO WISHES TO WEAR A MASK FOR REASONS OF ANXIETY OR PREFERENCE MAY CONTINUE TO DO.

Whilst we are as one in welcoming the progress that has been made which allows the easing of restrictions, we need to remain cautious and move forward with care and sensitivity to others. We will of course monitor the effects of the latest changes very carefully.

We thank you for your on-going support.

Mr Rawlinson
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