



Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

28th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

From 1 September 2020, new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in schools and other education institutions that teach pupils in Years 7 and above in England. This guidance can be found on the Government [website](#). In areas where local restrictions are in place, including Tameside, it will be mandatory for students and staff to wear a face covering in school areas where social distancing is difficult.

The wearing of face coverings puts in place an additional prevention measure to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19, alongside other important measures we have in place in school, which we have already shared with you earlier this week in our parent guide including:

- Social distancing where possible;
- Hand washing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or hand sanitisation;
- Encouraging good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach;
- Enhanced cleaning in the school setting.

I am therefore writing to inform you that when your child returns to school next week, they will be required to wear a face covering in the school, in areas where it may be particularly difficult to maintain social distancing as staff and pupils are moving around the premises.

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly reassure parents and pupils that the guidance has not come into place because schools are considered a high risk environment for COVID-19, but that the wearing of face coverings is an additional prevention measure to help ensure the transmission of COVID-19 remains low in the borough.

WHAT CONSTITUTES AS A FACE COVERING AND WHERE TO ACCESS ONE

Please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a face covering every day. The national guidance definition of a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings can be worn. These are available in supermarkets and many high street and online retailers. **Please can you ensure that your child has a suitable, plain coloured face covering for use in school. Please note, that we do not accept face coverings with patterns or logos as part of our school expectations.**

WHEN TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

For Longdendale High School, instances where staff and pupils are required to wear a face covering are:

- In corridors and public areas of the school (this includes when moving between lessons, at the start and end of the school day, and breaks and lunchtimes)
- In communal areas such as the dining hall (except when eating or drinking), staff rooms or the Sports Hall (except when taking part in PE lessons)

Longdendale High School Spring Street, Hollingworth, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 8LW **Headteacher:** Mrs A. Jones **CEO:** Mr M. Bowler
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- In social spaces such as the Entrance Hall, the Canopy Area, the Common Area or the Outdoor Pursuits Centre

If you feel there is a specific reason (eg. Medical or a specific need) why your child is not able to wear a face covering, please contact Mrs Noble, Mr Potter or Mrs Willis in the first instance to discuss this further so that alternative arrangements can be explored and agreed prior to your child returning to school.

In line with the national advice and guidance, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom as the school has put in place a system of controls for minimising risk, including keeping children in consistent groups or bubbles, and ensuring greater physical distancing by staff and learners within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on communication, learning and teaching. However, if a member of staff or individual learner would prefer to wear a face covering in the classroom, this will be supported provided the face covering meets the expectations outlined in this letter and is placed in a sealable bag when not being worn at all times.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT/CARER?

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly. Clear instructions will be provided to staff, children and young people on [how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings](#) to avoid unknowingly increasing the risks of transmission of the virus.

Before returning to school, we would like to encourage parents and carers to support their child to feel comfortable wearing a face covering, by practising the handling of the face covering, putting it on and off safely, using the guidance provided, and storing it whilst not in use. Please follow the guidance using the link above to support with this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all learners, their families and staff in supporting this additional prevention measure. If you have any questions or concerns or you are struggling to access face coverings, please contact the main school office for further information. Please note that the office will be shut until Tuesday 1st September.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our learners back to school, but please get in touch if we can be of any further support.

Yours faithfully,

Andrea Jones
Headteacher

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Government Guidance:

1. **Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

2. **Asthma UK**

Should I wear a face mask or face covering?

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/what-should-people-with-asthma-do-now/should-i-wear-a-face-mask-or-face-covering/>

3. **Epilepsy Action**

Are face coverings (face masks) safe for people with epilepsy?

<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/daily-life/safety/coronavirus-covid-19>

4. **Disability Right UK**

Disabled people exempt from transport face covering rules

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2020/june/disabled-people-exempt-transport-face-covering-rules>

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