



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with an update regarding the wearing of facemasks by staff and students following the publication of recent advice from the Government.

Nationally, the government is not recommending the general wearing of face coverings in educational settings, unless the school is within an area where additional control measures have been implemented due to a rise in infections. However, each school has the discretion regarding the use of masks in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.

Shrewsbury Academy site is a small site, where students move between rooms and along corridors, in close proximity to one another. We have therefore implemented measures to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid 19. These measures include one-way corridors, students socialising in year group bubbles, front facing desks, the frequent cleaning of desks and hands, additional bin provision in all classroom areas for the disposal of tissues and paper towels, plus hand sanitiser for all students at the start of all lessons.

Despite these measures, there may still be occasions when students feel they are not able to effectively maintain the recommended distance as they move around the school. We have therefore made the decision to allow students to use a face covering in communal areas, at their own discretion. This will be in areas including corridors, canteen and other social areas. There will not be an expectation for students to wear face coverings in lessons.

Guidance for the wearing of facemasks

- The face covering should be a reusable one and students must carry a sealable plastic bag to store their face covering when not worn.
- Face coverings must cover the mouth and nose.
- Any student choosing to use a face covering must follow the guidance for taking the face covering on and off correctly.
- Face coverings may not be touched whilst being worn, unless they are being removed.

Removal of masks guidance

- Clean hands with gel
- Remove the covering, aiming to touch only the ties or straps
- Seal the covering inside a plastic bag and place this inside your school bag
- Clean hands with gel again

Face Coverings in classrooms

Government Guidance states that:

'On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided'.

If you wish to read the full government guidance on the use of face coverings in education, please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

The routines outlined above are to be completed sensibly, quickly and with minimal fuss to ensure learning is not disrupted.

If you have any questions regarding the wearing of face masks for your child, please contact Operations Manager Ellie Evans by calling the school main reception or emailing e.evans@sa.sat.coop. Please can I ask that you refrain from attending school reception unless you have a planned meeting, again to reduce the risks of COVID 19. Meetings can be arranged by calling the main reception and leaving your details and reason for meeting.

Should the number of Covid 19 cases rise locally, or the school should be contained in an "Area of national government intervention", this protocol will be reviewed with the support of Public Health England at that time. Face coverings may become mandatory at that time.

Yours faithfully



Miss Julie Johnson
Head of School
Shrewsbury Academy