

Face Coverings at Bishop Perowne CE College from September

On Wednesday 26th August, the Department for Education published new guidance on the use of face coverings in education.

The full text of the advice can be read here:

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

In summary, face coverings are only compulsory in schools in high risk areas in communal spaces and corridors where social distancing is difficult. It is not recommended that they are worn in classrooms.

Bishop Perowne Policy for Students

We have planned our provision at Bishop Perowne so that students will rarely, if ever, need to leave their year group bubble. Students are segregated on entry, remain in the same zone in the school and have their breaks and lunches with the year group alone. We have regular sanitisation of hands, well ventilated classrooms and enhanced cleaning procedures. There should be limited movement in corridors (as teachers move to the students' zones) and only within the year group. Movement to specialist rooms should be controlled and supervised by the specialist teacher.

Worcestershire is not currently deemed to be an area of high risk.

Whilst transmission remains low, we will not make the wearing of face coverings compulsory in school. Nevertheless:

- Students may choose to wear a face covering when moving between lessons and in communal areas at break/lunchtime.

We do believe, however, that there are some circumstances where wearing a mask may be beneficial and therefore consider that **all students should have a face covering with them at all times** as part of their required equipment.

Face coverings should be worn under the following circumstances:

- 1) On public/school transport, including taxis, to and from school.
- 2) If students leave their year group bubble for any reason (e.g. to access student services, to attend an appointment or intervention within another zone or to access any mixed year group gathering).
- 3) At the direction and discretion of teachers if it is deemed that social distancing may be difficult when moving around the premises or in a practical lesson.

We will review this policy regularly and make adjustments based upon our experiences of the first few weeks of the new term and on any changes to advice from government. We will, of course, monitor the number of cases locally and Worcester's subsequent risk status.

Wearing face coverings correctly (taken from the guidance)

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly and that clear instructions are provided to staff, children and young people on [how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings](#) in all of the circumstances above, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between uses. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

As per the guidance, we will rely on families to provide face-coverings and only provide spares/replacements in emergencies. Face coverings should not have any offensive images or words.

Parents should familiarise themselves with the type and effectiveness of the various types of face-coverings. This video may be of some help:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esM_ePHn0aw#action=share

The following describes the difference between a face mask and a face covering. Face coverings are mainly intended to protect others and not the wearer.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/face-coverings-and-face-masks.htm#:~:text=Surgical%20face%20masks%20are%20designed,limit%20the%20spread%20of%20infection.&text=Unlike%20face%20coverings%2C%20they%3A,droplets%20of%20fluids%20and%20splashes>