

RP/tb – 3 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, the government recently changed their advice surrounding the wearing of masks in school. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school, but this has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated:

"Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances".

In addition, the government advised additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as listed on gov.uk, the government's guidance states "face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where proactive measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning."

Our local area currently has a relatively low rate of Covid 19 infection and transmission and as a school, we have taken a number of precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in previous correspondence to you and available on the website. Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school.

However, I absolutely recognise that many students and staff will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and/or in the classroom and I am very happy for them to do so. I am also conscious that areas like the dining hall will become busy at points within the day and am consequently **strongly encouraging the wearing of face coverings** in busy communal areas by both staff and students. Please note that masks must be plain in appearance, no logos or motifs and must be worn appropriately and sensibly. Any student intentionally misusing a mask will be required to take it off.

Any member of the school community choosing to wear a mask must follow the guidance below:

- Store their mask in a plastic bag when not in use.
- Only touch the ear loops when putting on or removing their mask.
- Wash or sanitise their hands after touching their mask.
- Dispose of masks in the bins provided.

In addition, the DfE guidance states any student arriving by bus should wear a different mask on the bus to the one they wear in school.

I will of course review this decision in light of any updated government guidance and any changes in our local situation.

Yours faithfully
The Long Eaton School

R Peel

Mr R Peel
Headteacher