



28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Use of face coverings at Ecclesfield School

I am writing to inform you of the approach we will be taking to the use of face coverings in school following the recent announcement by the Government on 25 August 2020: face coverings in education. On 27 August 2020, the following additional advice was issued to Sheffield schools by Public Health England:

*Whilst Sheffield is not identified as an area of high virus transmission and is not identified as an area of Government intervention at this time the Sheffield Director of Public Health advises all secondary schools, FE colleges and Universities that face coverings **should be worn** in communal areas and on corridors. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom. Face Coverings should be provided by parents/carers, pupils, students and staff themselves. Visitors, parents and carers should also be advised to adhere to the same guidance when visiting school sites.*

When we return to school, **all students must wear a face covering when moving around the school**, such as in corridors and communal areas of the school where social distancing is difficult. Face coverings **must not be worn by students in classrooms**.

Students are expected to provide their own face covering, and to ensure that it is routinely washed if they choose to wear one that is re-usable. Spare masks will be made available at school but only as an emergency supply. Please note that visors are not deemed a suitable alternative to a face covering as they are less effective in stopping the spread of the virus.

Face coverings must be worn correctly. This requires cleaning of hands before and after touching, including removing or putting them on, and the safe storage in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. A guide issued by Public Health England is attached to this letter. If the face mask has imagery which is offensive or deemed unsuitable for school, then students will be expected to remove it and wear a mask we provide until it can be replaced for the following day.

Any parents, carers or visitors to school site must be asked to wear a face covering if moving around the school.

If your child has a medical condition which prevents them from wearing a face covering, then please contact the school.

Please remember that we are implementing this requirement following advice from Public Health England and other external bodies. It is in addition to all the other measures we intend to put into place, to support and safe and sustainable return to school. Thank you in advance for your support in implementing these new ways of working.

I look forward to welcoming everybody back into school over the next few days and getting back to the classroom and learning. These last few months have been extremely challenging but the staff at school are extremely positive and together we will take on the challenges that lay ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Walkden', written in a cursive style.

Mr R Walkden
Headteacher