



Introduction

This document provides instructions and practical advice for staff, parents and pupils regarding the wearing of face coverings in Wellington School. Staff will provide clear information to children and young people on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings in all of the circumstances advised in this document, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. In addition, the School will display clear messaging to raise awareness of these instructions. The School will take respect of the impacts on certain groups of pupils, e.g., those with additional support needs and those exempt from wearing a face covering on health grounds.

It is reasonable to assume that most staff and young people will now have access to re-usable face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, and the Scottish Government has made available a video on how to make a simple face covering.

Pupils are expected to bring their own face covering to school and it is recommended that they also carry a spare. However, where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled/unsafe, a supply of disposable face coverings will be available in school and any pupil in need of one should go to the School Office or speak to the relevant Head of Year.

What is a face covering?

A face covering can be a covering of any type, except a face shield, that covers the mouth and nose. It is recommended that it be made of cloth or other textiles and should be two, and preferably three layers thick, and through which you can breathe. Religious face coverings that cover the mouth and the nose count as face coverings for these purposes. Transparent face coverings which assist communication for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions can also be worn.

Face coverings should be either disposable or made of fabric that is predominantly school colours and in line with school uniform (for pupils) or professional dress (for staff). Face coverings made of football colours will not be considered acceptable.

Face shields may be used, but only if they are worn in addition to a face covering underneath, as the evidence shows that they do not provide adequate protection. If you are unable to wear a face covering, a face visor or face shield can be worn as it does provide a limited level of protection.

Who needs to wear a face covering in school and where should they be worn?

- Pupils age 5 and above should wear a face covering on school transport; this includes the school minibuses, Dodds transport and if car sharing with other pupils from a different household.
- Pupils in Primary 7 and above should wear a face covering when in indoor communal areas, in corridors and on school transport; this includes the school minibuses, Dodds transport and if car sharing with other pupils from a different household.
- Teachers should ensure that all pupils in P7 and above put on their face covering after sanitizing their hands and leaving the classroom. Teachers should encourage the sanitizing of hands after face coverings have been removed and safely stored.
- Teachers should wear a face covering in indoor communal areas, in corridors and on school transport; this include school minibuses, Dodds transport and when car sharing with others from a different household.

- Parents dropping off children at the school gate should either maintain 2 metres physical distancing or wear a face covering; this helps to model good practice to pupils and alleviate any stress or anxiety that other pupils, parents or staff may experience as a result of having to pass close by.
- Essential visitors to the school for pre-arranged meetings and collection of sick pupils should wear a face covering in communal areas.

The key points are as follows:

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Make sure the face covering is the right size to cover the nose, mouth and chin. Children, young people and staff should ensure that they wear the face covering properly, including not touching the front and not pulling it under their nose, chin or into their mouth. Staff will demonstrate this to the pupils.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water. When temporarily removing a face covering staff and pupils should, where possible, maintain 2 metres distance as physical distancing is one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of the virus and removing your face covering places others at an increased risk.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Children and young people should be encouraged not to litter and to place their face coverings in the general waste bin. They are not considered to be clinical waste in the same way that used PPE may be. Disposable face coverings and gloves cannot be recycled. Don't create litter. Littering is a criminal offence and you can receive a fixed penalty of up to £80. Please respect our communities, wildlife and countryside and put disposable face coverings or gloves in the litter bin, or take them home to dispose of safely.
- If you have coronavirus or live with someone who does, you need to take extra precautions before throwing away disposable face coverings. Double bag your general waste (including face covering or gloves), store the waste safely for 72 hours, then throw it in the bin.
- It is expected that all pupils will remember to bring this essential item to school, however, no-one will be excluded from the School on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.

You may also have a reasonable excuse not to wear a face covering if, for example:

you have a health condition or you are disabled, including hidden disabilities, for example, autism or a learning disability, or because you cannot apply a covering and wear it in the proper manner safely and consistently. (Individual discretion should be applied in considering the use of face coverings for other children including, for example, children with breathing difficulties and disabled children who would struggle to wear a face covering.)

- to seek medical assistance
- to avoid injury, illness or escape the risk of harm
- you need to eat or drink
- you are taking medication
- you are communicating with someone else who relies on lip reading and facial expressions to communicate
- a relevant person, such as a police officer, asks you to remove your face covering.

Those exempt under the guidance and regulations do not have to prove their exemption and will not be made to wear a face covering or denied access to school transport or school. We ask for people to be aware of the exemptions and to treat each other with kindness.

This document takes account of updated guidance available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-newschool-term-august-2020-version-2/>.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronaviruscovid-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues---advisory-note-on-facecoverings-in-schools/>

The School will continue to keep this guidance under ongoing review and take advice from the Scottish Government and local NHS and Public Health.

N O'Connell 26th August 2020