



Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (March 2021)

Woodhouse Grove School will be following the recommended guidance outlined in the DfE (Department of Education) document "Schools coronavirus operational guidance" (Feb 2021);

- *Adults and Pupils **will be expected** to wear a face covering when moving about the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be managed.*
- *Face coverings do not need to be worn by adults or pupils when outdoors on the premises.*

Additional recommendations from 8th March 2021 are that;

- *face coverings should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example PE lessons.*
- *Face visors or shields will not be used as an alternative to face coverings.*

Pupils and Staff who are using face coverings must adhere to the following guidance regarding face coverings:

- Pupils and staff using public transport and school buses to travel to and from school must follow the Government Guidelines in the use of face coverings.
- Pupils and staff should not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them to prevent contamination with germs from hands.
- Pupils and staff should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer immediately on arrival and before and after removal of face covering.
- Temporary face coverings must be disposed of in a covered bin.
- Reusable face coverings should be placed in a plastic bag while not in use.
- Face coverings should be changed or washed daily in line with manufacturers guidelines.
- Fabric face-coverings must be plain in colour and may not contain wording
- Pupils and staff must continue to wash their hands regularly.

Exemptions

Government guidance is clear that those who are exempt from wearing face coverings are those who:

- *Cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties.*
- *Speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.*

These exemptions apply in education settings and Woodhouse Grove will be sensitive to individual needs.

Woodhouse Grove School will continue to follow Government guidance on this issue.