



De La Salle School

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22nd September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Face Coverings Compulsory from Wednesday 23rd September

I mentioned last week that we would keep our policy of face coverings under review. In light of the worsening situation across the region, we have now decided that face coverings will be compulsory for all staff and students (excluding those with specific exemptions).

Where does the rule apply?

The rule applies to all enclosed, shared spaces e.g. corridors, dining rooms (except when eating and drinking), toilets, staff rooms etc. As well as the existing rule on buses.

The rule does not apply outdoors or in lessons, though staff and students are welcome to wear face coverings at these times, if they so wish.

What is classed as a face covering?

The link later in the letter provides guidance on what constitutes a face covering.

When does this rule start?

The rule comes into effect from tomorrow, Wednesday 23rd September, though we will take a lenient approach up until Friday as staff and students become used to it. From Monday 28th it will be rigorously enforced.

What if my child is exempt from wearing one?

Please contact the main office if your child has a medical or additional need that would make them exempt.

Face Covering Hygiene

It would also be timely to remind you about the importance of good mask hygiene. The link below contains a wealth of information regarding face coverings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

I have not taken this decision lightly but I believe it is a necessary next step to help protect all of the members of our community. I thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter. Though I am always keen to engage with parental questions, I am not in a position to discuss the merits and flaws of face coverings, I have no experience in the world of epidemiology beyond the steep learning curves of the past few months, and would therefore suggest that such discussion would be better pursued with public health officials.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher