



## Face Covering Guidance

Updated 17 May 2021

This guidance will continue to be monitored in response to government advice. If you have any questions or queries in relation to face coverings, please speak to your Line Manager or the HR director.

It must be noted that wearing face coverings **does not reduce** the requirement to socially distance from others and we will still expect staff and students to follow all the appropriate guidance on social distancing.

### Our Definition of Face Coverings:

Please see the requirements of face coverings as issued by government to manufacturers of face masks. This is the standard that we will allow in our Nursery and Academies. We will also require that all face masks be plain in colour and that they do not have any pictures or markings on them. Any that we deem to be offensive will need to be removed and will be issued with a disposable face mask.

Risks	Requirements
Physical (covering / skin contact)	Face coverings must not contain any sharp points or rough edges that will pierce or cut skin
Physical Straps (straps)	Straps hold the face covering in place and ensure a good fit for intended user groups. Straps must not cut into skin. Straps must not be a strangulation hazard
Physical Body of Mask	Face covering must not impede the wearer from breathing (suffocation hazard). Face covering must not release small parts or be adorned with buttons or beads (choking hazard). Face covering to be made from a fabric that does not shed fibres that may be inhaled during use. Face covering not to be made from a material not designed to be worn against the skin or dyed with chemicals containing poisons that could be ingested. Allergenic materials, such as latex in elastic, where worn against the skin, e.g. in head attachments, should be avoided or included in label warning on packaging and on the covering itself

We will **not** accept bandanas or neck rolls as appropriate face coverings.



## Staff and Visitor Requirements

### Visitors

- All visitors to our Academies **must** wear a face covering at **all times** whilst on site, unless exempt under Government guidelines.

### Setting-Specific Guidance

#### First Steps Nursery

- **Pupils**
  - Children in nursery should not wear any face coverings.
- **Staff**
  - When dealing with a suspected case of COVID19, the use of PPE equipment is compulsory.
  - Staff must wear face coverings in indoor communal areas such as corridors and office spaces, where social distancing cannot be maintained unless exempt under Government guidelines.
  - Visors should not be worn and if required transparent face coverings can be used to support students who need to read lips or see facial cues.

#### Primary Academies

- **Pupils**
  - Pupils do not need to wear any face coverings whilst attending school.
- **Staff**
  - Staff must wear face coverings when moving outside of their bubble and in communal areas such as corridors and office spaces, where social distancing cannot be maintained, unless exempt under Government guidelines.
  - Visors should not be worn. If required transparent face coverings can be used to support students who need to read lips or see facial cues.

#### Secondary Academies

- **Students**
  - Students must wear face coverings when moving outside of their bubble and in communal areas such as corridors, where social distancing cannot be maintained, unless exempt under Government guidelines.
  - Parents must show students how to put face coverings on and remove them safely.
  - Face coverings should be appropriate in colour.
  - Students must remove face coverings if requested to do so by any member of staff.
  - Students must have appropriate storage for their face coverings when they are not being worn.
  - Face coverings must be removed from the face when not being worn and not tucked under the chin.
  - Students must wear face coverings on all public transport to and from the Academy.
- **Staff**
  - Staff must wear face coverings when moving outside of their bubble and in communal areas such as corridors and office spaces, where social distancing cannot be maintained, unless exempt under Government guidelines.



- Visors should not be worn. If required transparent face coverings can be used to support students who need to read lips or see facial cues.