



Date: 18-9-20

Update: wearing face masks in school is now compulsory from Monday 21st September for all those not exempt through medical conditions

ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education#where-local-restrictions-apply>

WISDOM
HOPE
COMMUNITY
DIGNITY
EQUALITY

Dear Parents and Carers,

UPDATE: WEARING FACE MASKS IN SCHOOL

Since I last contacted you regarding the wearing of masks in our communal areas and areas where social distancing is difficult, the situation has changed. Merseyside is now an 'area of intervention' which means that there is concern regarding the number of positive cases of Covid-19 and that we as a region need to do more. Part of our role in schools is to limit the risk of catching Covid-19. We will not be insisting on masks within the classroom areas as we have a series of measures in place to help safeguard our staff and students.

The main change for us in school is that the wearing of masks in our common spaces such as corridors will be compulsory from Monday. We do have some staff and students who are exempt from wearing masks and they will not be expected to unless they wish to do so. If you are in any doubt, please contact school to ask. We ask that these masks are plain in colour.

I realise that this may seem like a frightening situation, but all of the steps we have taken so far, including this one, are to limit the spread of Covid-19 and to keep your sons and daughters, you and our staff safe in our school community.

There are some rules that we need to stick to when we are putting on and removing our masks. Below is a section from the Government guidance on wearing a face covering safely:

- Face coverings need to cover both the mouth and the nose
- Hands should be washed for 20 seconds with soapy water or sanitised before removing or putting your face covering on
- If you travel on public transport, your face covering will need to be changed before you come into school. Place any face coverings you want to re-use in a sealable bag or place it in the bin provided and sanitise your hands.

Lots of parents, students and staff have been requesting the compulsory use of a face covering and yesterday, prior to this announcement, we made face coverings compulsory for our College students. I also know that many students have their masks all ready to wear to school, but have not wanted to stand out as many were not wearing them. Our priority is to limit the transmission of the virus in the places where we cannot socially distance easily.

Headteacher
Mrs J Code
BA (Hons), NPQH, FCCT

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The school will have a very small number of disposable masks for those unable to arrange to have face coverings for Monday 21st September. I understand that people's financial situations have changed due to the pandemic and would ask those families to let us know if they need help in purchasing masks for their son or daughter.

I know that you are adapting and reacting on what seems to be a daily basis to the pandemic. I do not wish to add to your situation, but think this is a sensible step in limiting the spread of the virus.

Thank you for all of your support and understanding,

Kind regards,



Mrs Jo Code
Headteacher