

Face Coverings in School.

From Monday 31st August 2020 all pupils aged five or over who use dedicated school transport will be asked to wear a face covering whilst being conveyed to and from school. Please note, however, that the advice that no physical distancing is required between pupils using dedicated school transport has not changed and, as such, the capacity of school transport is unaffected.

For pupils aged 12 and above, Monday 31st August also sees introduction of a requirement for face coverings to be worn where pupils and staff are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain.

In stepping up of use of face coverings, it will remain vitally important to consider the potential impact on children and young people, including via the appropriate use of Equality Impact Assessments. The impact of wearing a face covering for learners with additional support needs, including any level of hearing loss, should be carefully considered, as communication for many of these learners (including hearing impaired young people) relies in part on being able to see someone's face clearly. This is also important for children and young people who are acquiring English and who rely on visual cues to enable them to be included in learning. Individuals who may not be able to handle and wear face coverings as directed (e.g. young learners, or those with additional support needs or disabilities) should not wear them as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. In classes where any such impacts are anticipated and no alternative mitigations are reasonable, schools may wish to consider the use of see-through face coverings which are increasingly available. Some children and young people may need additional support/reassurance about the reasons for adults wearing face coverings.

It is vital that school provide children and young people with clarity on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings in all of the circumstances above, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. 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 should be taught how to wear the face covering properly, including not touching the front and not pulling it under the chin or into their mouth.
- 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.

- 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.

Face coverings should not generally be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments. However, face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or children and young people. As was previously the case, all staff and pupils are welcome to wear a face covering should they so choose.

It is our expectation that, having experienced several months of life in pandemic conditions, all individuals will have access to suitable face coverings. Notwithstanding this, we are committing to providing an additional £10 to the families of all pupils who are eligible for the School Clothing Allowance.

Please note that whilst the Scottish Government is, through this latest guidance, indicating that pupils *should* wear face coverings in the specific circumstances described above, this is *not* mandatory. Consequently, whilst schools will monitor and encourage compliance, pupils should not be excluded from school, nor dedicated school transport, should they refuse or be unable to comply with this guidance. Any anti-social behaviour should continue to be explored and dealt with through school and school transport behaviour policies.

HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

Do's →



Clean your hands before touching the mask.



Inspect the mask for damage or if dirty.



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides.



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin.



Avoid touching the mask.



Clean your hands before removing the mask.



Remove the mask by the straps behind the ears or head.



Pull the mask away from your face.



Store the mask in a clean plastic, resealable bag if it is not dirty or wet and you plan to re-use it.



Remove the mask by the straps when taking it out of the bag.



Wash the mask in soap or detergent, preferably with hot water, at least once a day.



Clean your hands after removing the mask.

A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.

[who.int/epi-win](https://www.who.int/epi-win)



World Health Organization

HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

Don'ts →



Do not use a mask that looks damaged.



Do not wear a loose mask.



Do not wear the mask under the nose.



Do not remove the mask where there are people within 1 metre.



Do not use a mask that is difficult to breathe through.



Do not wear a dirty or wet mask.



Do not share your mask with others.

A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.

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