



Trinity School

A Church of England
Academy

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Ms Jo Hawkin
Headteacher

2 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Compulsory wearing of face coverings from Thursday 5th November 2020

I wrote to you before the holiday about the school's policy on wearing face coverings linked to the government's Covid-19 alert level system. This was in light of the increasing rates of infection in the Carlisle area and the likelihood that we would move into a higher tier. As you know, Carlisle moved into the High Alert Level (Tier 2) on Saturday 31st October. The government's current guidance to schools is clear that schools in any area in Tier 2 or higher, students should wear face masks:

"When an area moves to the local COVID alert level 'high' or 'very high', in education settings where year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As in the general approach, it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning."

You can read the full government guidance by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

The World Health Organisation published a statement on 21st August about children and face coverings. They now advise that "children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area."

We are expecting an update from the government following the announcement of the new restrictions that come into force soon. Regardless of this, from **Thursday 5th November 2020**, all students in all year groups **must** wear a face covering in the following circumstances:

- **For all students:** at break and lunch, except when eating, or outside
- **For all students:** at movement time - to break and lunch, to lessons (Years 10-13), to PE and specialist lessons
- **For adults:** at movement time
- **For everybody:** when it is not possible to keep a 2m distance (except in lessons)

For students in Key Stage 3, this amounts to a maximum of 45 minutes per day (less if students remain outside and socially distant) and slightly longer at Key Stage 4 and 5 as they change lessons. We have spoken to students today about how they should store and wear their face covering; students will need to bring a small hand sanitiser with them to make sure they have cleaned their hands before and after use.



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If your child has a medical issue that prevents them from wearing a face covering please talk to your child's year team, who will advise you on what we will need as evidence to provide your child with an exemption.

We appreciate that there will be differences of opinion regarding the wearing of face covering amongst both students and parents, but we have no alternative other than to follow the current government guidelines. We thank you for your support in implementing yet more difficult constraints in what has been an unprecedented time for us all.

Yours sincerely

Jo Hawkin
Headteacher