



27th August 2020

Dear parents / carers,

As you will have no doubt seen, the Government has this week changed its guidance on face masks in school. From September, pupils and staff may be required to wear face masks when in corridors and communal indoor spaces. In simple terms, the **new guidance** states the following:

- *From 1 September 2020, new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in some schools, and learners in further education*
- *In areas of '**national government intervention**', the government **will require** adults and pupils to wear face coverings when moving around their school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain*
- *Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally however, secondary schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas.*

Although our local area is not currently subject to local lockdown restrictions, all schools are able to make this decision if they feel it is necessary. All secondary deemed schools within the Talentum Learning Trust – Westwood College, Leek High School and Churnet View Middle School – **have decided to make face coverings mandatory, in corridors and communal areas from September for all of their year groups.**

Although the advice around face coverings is mixed, we feel it is necessary to take every available precaution, to protect all of our children and staff, as best as possible. We have therefore taken the decision **to include year 5 and 6 as well** because although these pupils will not move around school as much as year 7 and 8 (due to our primary curriculum model), they will still move in order to be taught Design and Technology, Art, Computer Science, Science and Textiles, as well as moving through the corridors at break and at lunch. As well as giving us a consistent approach, which enables us to manage this more effectively, having all year groups and staff operating in this manner will offer increased protection for all, especially if pupils unavoidably cross paths with pupils from another year group/key stage bubble.

Pupils and staff will be expected to wear their coverings whilst moving around the school building and in areas where pupils/staff may gather such as queuing up for their lunches and in corridors. Once pupils enter the classroom in which their class bubble or year group/key stage will be based, they can remove their face covering so that this does not interfere with their learning.

Pupils with medical conditions that require them **not** to wear a face mask are exempt from this, but you will need to email the school office and make us aware of this (cvm.office@ttl.org.uk). However, if medical guidance allows for it, you may feel that your child can wear a face shield instead. If this is the case then we will support your decision, but you will still need to supply your child with the shield.

Pupils must bring their own face mask to school and be responsible for it throughout the day. We do have a small number in stock, though these are for emergency use only. If a student arrives to school without a mask, and we are not able to issue one, we may be forced to contact parents and arrange for the student to be collected. This is clearly the last thing we want to do, so please get in touch if we can help at all. They will need to ensure that their covering

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is packed away carefully in a container or plastic bag before they place this into their school bags, until the end of the lesson or until they leave their room for a break.

I would ask please that all pupils follow the following guidance for the use of face coverings in school:

- Pupils should wear a plain suitability coloured face covering in school. Coverings with pictures, print or logos on them are **not appropriate** for school use. Please ensure that your child understands this so that this new requirement is as effective as possible. If we do feel that a facemask is not in keeping with the guidance set out in this letter, we will ask them to remove it and where possible, replace it with one of our disposable ones. This will only be a temporary measure but may result in us asking you to bring another one into school or asking you to collect your child.
- Pupils must take responsibility for the storage of their face covering when it is not being used.
- Pupils must not lend their face covering to other pupils at any time during the school day.
- Initially, face coverings can be of a disposable nature; however, a covering that can be washed and dried is a more sustainable option for school.
- Scarves, 'snoods' or bandanas are **not suitable for school** and can lead to the contamination of other pieces of clothing or areas of the face /head.
- If pupils do not bring a mask to school, they may be sent home or parents may be asked to bring one in to school immediately for them.

These are appropriate face coverings.



The type of face coverings below are **NOT** appropriate for school.



Since the beginning of the lockdown in March, Churnet View Middle School has always taken a careful and cautious approach to welcoming children back into school and we feel that the wearing of face coverings will add another layer of protection in ensuring that all pupils can return to a safe and caring learning environment.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

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