

Information for Parents/Carers on the use of face coverings in school

Effective from Monday 28 February 2022

Jesmond Park Academy is committed to ensuring that students continue their education in school as safely as possible. Our current Coronavirus protocol is on the school website and work is ongoing on behind the scenes to ensure students remain safe and continue their learning.

The wearing of face coverings in all areas of the school is currently optional for staff and students. Wearing them is a personal choice. We are continually monitoring the Coronavirus situation and following public health advice. There may be a change to our expectations around the wearing of face coverings in the future and we will provide updated information if this is the case.

Face coverings should preferably be of a plain colour with no logos or offensive markings. We reserve the right to ask a student to remove a face covering that is deemed inappropriate; this will be replaced by a school disposable mask until a more appropriate one is sourced.

Use of Face Coverings in School

When, where and why will my child need to wear a face covering in school?

The wearing of face coverings in all areas of the school is currently optional for staff and students. Wearing them is a personal choice.

What will my child need if they choose to wear a face covering?

A face covering. We recommend re-usable coverings so that it can be used more than once, as it will need to be taken on and off several times throughout the day. If this is not an option they will need to bring in several single use face coverings every day. The face covering should be secured to your child's head using ear loops only. **Face coverings should preferably be of a plain colour with no logos or offensive markings. We reserve the right to ask a student to remove a face covering that is deemed inappropriate; this will be replaced by a school disposable mask until a more appropriate one is sourced.**

Where can I get a face covering?

You can purchase them in shops and online from a wide range of retailers. There are instructions from the government on how to make your own face coverings in the link at the end of this document. Please supervise children making their own face covering.

How should my child use their face covering?

A face covering needs fit securely against the side of the face and cover the nose and mouth while allowing your child to breathe comfortably. It must not be worn around the neck or forehead at any time. It should ideally be two layers of fabric, the World Health Organisation recommends 3 depending on the material being used. The face covering must cover their nose and mouth when they are wearing it. They should not touch the front of the face covering or the part that has touched their mouth and nose as it could be contaminated with the virus. They should wash/sanitise their hands before and after touching the face covering, including when taking it off and putting it on and only handle the straps/ties. If it becomes damp they should not wear it and they should replace it carefully. Face coverings must not be taken off and put back on again in quick succession and face

coverings must never be shared between students. Single use face coverings need to be disposed of after use – not in a recycling bin. Please see the government link at the end of this information about the use of face coverings. We would be grateful if you could go through the information with your child. We will be using this in school.

How often will it need to be washed?

Re-usable coverings will need to be washed at the end of every day, ready for your child to wear them the following day. You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry by following the washing instructions for the fabric and using normal detergents.

What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

As the wearing of a face covering in school is currently optional and a personal choice, they will not need to wear one.

What if my child wants to wear a face covering but forgets it?

We do have a small supply of spare coverings available at school and we will swap a broken covering (when presented) for a new one. To be safe in the knowledge that everyone has one please make sure that your child has their own so that we can keep the supply of spares for emergencies. We are issuing planner comments to students without face coverings as we need to ensure that our emergency supply is maintained.

Further detailed information about face coverings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>