



## The use of face coverings at St John's from 17 May 2021

### Aims

To lower the risk of community transmission of Covid-19 for both staff and pupils by following the precautions recommended by the World Health Organisation and Department for Education.

To ensure continuity of education by minimising the spread of Covid-19 and therefore the need for staff and pupils to self-isolate.

To meet our obligations as an employer to keep staff as safe as possible.

### Rationale

St John's aims to meet the above aims whilst balancing the need for the impact on the quality of education to be minimised. The rationale for this policy is based on the following advice from the World Health Organisation that the following five measures can help limit the spread of Covid-19:

1. The use of face coverings.
2. Hand hygiene.
3. Physical distancing.
4. Cough and sneeze into elbows.
5. Good ventilation.

The Department for Education guidance has been updated to state:

From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

The full guidance on face coverings in education can be found here:

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

One of the increased risk factors noted is time spent in close proximity to others in closed spaces; therefore, it is considered that face coverings can help mitigate this. It is also noted that face coverings are largely to protect others as opposed to the wearer.

### Procedure

Face coverings should be worn indoors by staff and pupils, at all times, when a two metre social distance cannot be maintained. This will include corridors, offices and some communal areas except for when eating.

Face coverings are not required to be worn outside or for sport except for the lunch queue when face coverings should be worn. However, they must be worn when entering or leaving the School (including waiting for the School bus), as this involves large numbers of pupils in the same space.

The use of face coverings in specialist teaching spaces such as drama will be dependent on the ability to maintain a two metre social distance from other pupils and staff.

A record of pupils who have a medical exemption will be held by the Nurse Manager and a red lanyard will be provided to ensure staff are aware of this exemption. These pupils should be seated at the front of the class.

### **Safe wearing of face coverings**

Safe wearing of face coverings requires the

- cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on.
- safe storage of them in individual, sealable, plastic bags between use.

Therefore when putting on or removing face coverings, pupils should:

- not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it.
- dispose of temporary face coverings in a waste bin (not recycling bin).
- place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them.
- wash hands or use hand sanitiser before continuing onto the next school activity.

### **Additional points**

Pupils should bring a spare face covering to school for use each day.

The Health Centre will carry a small contingency supply of face coverings for pupils who have forgotten to bring their own.

The choice of face covering should be made with comfort in mind, as well as safety, and this is a very personal choice. All colours and styles of covering will be permitted, with the exception of any with inappropriate slogans which will not be permitted.