

Response to a change in guidance regarding the wearing of face covering in school.

Government guidance released on the 26th August says:

Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures

The school **has been given discretion** over use **in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.**

Having observed the students around site now, as well as a background of an increase in the community of people “showing symptoms” – we have identified that a change in our protocol is now sensible.

As of Monday 14th September, face coverings will be a requirement in school as follows.

All students will be required to wear a face covering of their choice at the following times:

- At the lines at the start of the day
- At movement times between sessions
- At movement times to and from social time bubbles
- Through the school buildings at the end of the day
- On all public transport

Students should remove and put away face coverings at the classroom door and **then** use the hand gel on entry.

At the end of a session, students should gel hands and **then** replace their mask

Gel will be provided in social spaces to allow students to gel hands after face covering removal.

Please ensure that your child is equipped with a face covering to use from Monday 14th September. Where a student does not have a face covering, one will be provided for them.

We are aware that some students have underlying conditions which mean that they are exempt from wearing a face covering. Please be assured that staff will challenge students sensitively.

Please contact Philips.j@mrat.co.uk if you wish your child to have an exempt sticker added to their planner, to allow them to quickly show staff as needed if this would support them.

Face Coverings in classrooms

Guidance says:

On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.

Families who would like to discuss their child using a face covering in classrooms should email phillips.j@mrat.co.uk in the first instance.

In addition

Some students working closely one to one with Access Leaders in the Hub and the Access to Learning base will be contacted individually to discuss the protocol for face covering use in those areas.

6th Form Students

Will follow the same routine as other year groups around the site.
Within the Sixth Form Centre - any transition movement will require a face covering.

Visitors to reception

All visitors to our reception must wear a face covering.

Entry to reception is restricted. All visitors must have an appointment and remain outside the building until the allocated appointment time

If you should wish to read the full government guidance on the use of face coverings in education, please follow this link:

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