



The  
Portsmouth Academy

Our Ref: HTY/woo/FCLtr

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parents / carers,

Following further guidance regarding the use of face coverings in schools, I am writing to confirm our expectations of students as they return to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

As previously communicated, we expect the wearing of face coverings when students and adults are indoors and unable to maintain a 2m distance. This follows specific government guidance on the use of face coverings in school from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, is a proportionate response to the current situation, and is in line with the expectations on the use of face coverings in wider society:

- Government advice on schools reopening: “The use of face coverings in recommended circumstances is one element of the system of controls and must be implemented in line with other guidance ... face coverings should be worn in classrooms.”

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965446/Face\\_coverings\\_in\\_education\\_-\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965446/Face_coverings_in_education_-_March_2021.pdf)

- The World Health Organisation has advised that “children aged 12 and over should wear a face covering 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.” This is the case in classrooms.

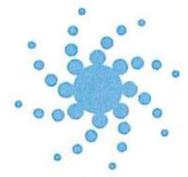
<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19>

- In England, the government requires the wearing of a face covering in almost all indoor settings including: public transport; shops and post offices and banks.

<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>

We are, however, aware that some students and staff may be exempt from wearing a face covering due to a disability or other social, behavioural, emotional or medical need, or if wearing a mask will cause severe distress. We know that some parents have already informed us where this is the case and we have facilitated students not having to wear a face covering in these circumstances. Please contact Mr R. Smith, Welfare Lead, at [r.smith@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:r.smith@tsatrust.org.uk) if your child is exempt from wearing a face covering.

Failure to follow our face covering rules is a breach of our health and safety requirements and the measures we are putting in place to keep our community safe. Therefore, we will be using our Academy Behaviour Policy to support compliance where students are not wearing a face covering, and are not exempt from doing so, including:



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- Students will receive verbal reminders of the need to wear their face covering indoors.
- Students will have the opportunity to reflect and make the right choice.
- In the event of continued failure to comply with the expectations the student could be removed from the setting to an area where they can work in a safe, socially distanced way. We will then support the student to understand why it is important for them to wear their face covering. We will also look to engage parents in supporting us in enforcing this expectation.
- Should students repeatedly refuse to comply with the expectation to wear a face covering then the school's behaviour policy will be used including escalating sanctions.

Breaches of these routines and expectations will be subject to the following protocol:

- Staff to record in SIMs as a negative Habit Point
- A daily log of these will be collated by the data team
- Pastoral and Senior Leadership Team staff will contact home where there has been significant or repeated defiance around these health and safety measures
- Persistent refusal to wear a face covering, without medical evidence, may lead to further consequences being put in place

Sanctions for non-compliance re face coverings

- Three instances of non-compliance in a week will lead to the student being issued a school detention and being required to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement
- If a further incident is logged, the Head of Year will set a Senior Leadership Team detention
- A further incident will lead to the student being placed in Internal Exclusion for a repeated breach of the Behaviour for Safety policy.

This policy will be reviewed at the end of this term.

Many thanks for your support and understanding in our efforts to keep our whole community safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hatherley  
Vice Principal