

The Use of Face Coverings in Schools



Here's what you and your child can expect now that pupils are required to wear a face covering when moving around the school.

Where and when will my child need to wear a face covering in school?

- They will need to wear a face covering when they move through shared indoor areas of the school, where social distancing is harder to maintain. This includes all corridors and common areas such as reception, the school dining hall (when not eating).
 - They **will not** need to wear a face covering in outside spaces or in classrooms.
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What will my child need?

Your child needs to come to school with:

- A **face covering**. We recommend a reusable face covering so that they can use it more than once, as they'll need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this isn't an option, they will need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day. Their face covering should be secured using ear loops only.
 - A **sealable plastic bag** to keep their face covering in when they're not using it so that it doesn't contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school.
 - Face coverings should be appropriate for a school setting: either plain in colour or with an appropriate pattern (striped, checked etc) and must not contain any images, logos or slogans.
 - The face covering **must not be** the same as that worn on public transport to travel to or from school.
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Where can I get a face covering?

- Reusable and single-use face coverings are available to buy in shops or online.
 - Instructions from the government on how to make a cloth face covering can be found here: <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#making-your-own-face-covering>
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How should my child use their face covering?

- Watch [this video](#) from the World Health Organisation with your child so they know how to wear their face covering safely.
- Face coverings need to cover both the nose and mouth. They should not be worn around the neck or on their forehead
- Students should not touch the front of the face covering or the part that's touched their mouth or nose as it may be contaminated. Only handle the straps or ties.
- They should wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand before and after touching the face covering, including to take it off or put it on. If it is reusable, they should store it in an individual, sealable plastic bag between uses.
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use (but **not** in a recycling bin). Bins will be made available to students specifically for this purpose.

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- If it becomes damp, the face covering should not be worn and your child should replace it carefully.
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How often will it need to be washed?

- Reusable face coverings will need to be washed at the end of each day, ready for your child to wear the next day.
 - You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent.
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What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

- If your child [is exempt](#) from wearing a face covering then they will not need to wear one in school.
 - Please let us know by contacting enq@highwealdacademy.kent.sch.uk so that we don't ask them to wear a face covering.
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What if my child forgets their face covering?

- We have a supply of spare masks available at school.
- Please make sure your child has their own face covering so that we can keep our supply of spares for emergencies.

Sources

- › [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education> GOV.UK - DfE