



Face coverings for all secondary school pupils and staff

27th August 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

You will have heard that on Wednesday 26 August 2020, the government updated its guidance on the wearing of face coverings or face masks in secondary schools and is now asking schools to make their own local decisions.

Having discussed this at length within our Trust, we fully acknowledge there is a good case to be made both for and against the use of face coverings. We, as a Trust, have decided to take an initial cautious approach and follow guidance closely allied to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Therefore, from the beginning of the new academic year, all **secondary phase pupils** and staff at Nishkam School West London will be requested to wear face mask/covering when outside their classroom but within the school building. The aim is clearly to further minimise risk, for example where pupils and staff may be passing each other in corridors and stairwells outside lesson time.

Within the class, we are currently not recommending the wearing of a face mask/covering, as the class environment will be well-ordered. In addition, this will also minimise any hinderance to learning within the classroom. If there are, however, pupils or staff who still wish to wear a face covering in the classroom, this will be permitted.

We realise this is a changing scenario and should infection risks change locally, we will consider further adapting this policy.

We would like to ask you for your support and continued patience, by requesting you kindly provide your child with a face covering. We ask that:

- The mask is plain, un-patterned, and un-branded, to minimise distraction to others; Further information regarding making and wearing face coverings is available on the government website;

<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#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering>

- You kindly provide a sealable plastic bag, for your child to place his/her face covering between uses in school;

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- You wash the face covering at home on a daily basis, using normal detergent (it can be washed with other laundry);
- You let us know if you have any difficulty in providing a face covering for your child.

As you will already understand, in school we will be asking pupils to wash or sanitise their hands regularly, in particular around the use of masks.

If pupils are unable to put on or remove a face covering due to a mental or physical illness/disability or if you are providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, the face covering will be exempt.

Again, I reiterate my gratitude in your support towards this, in particular given the exceptionally short notice that we received from central government.

Kind Regards

Mr T Cragg
Principal