

04 NOVEMBER 2020

Dear parents / carers; staff & students,

Apologies for yet another further letter – however, please see below the updated guidance from the DfE today on use of face masks in schools for tomorrow. Please note we had already decided to move to this change, regardless of Government advice, but I wanted to share that this is now official guidance for schools and no longer just a SLATrust initiative.

I have included some extracts below, with a full copy of this guidance:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

Kind regards,

Lucy Conley

SLATrust Executive Headteacher

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

DfE Guidance

Education and childcare settings: New National Restrictions from 5 November 2020

Guidance issued today:

How New National Restrictions to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) impact education, childcare and children's social care settings.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 (Year 7) and above when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This was already the case for pupils in year 7 and above, and staff and visitors for those schools that were in areas where local alert level 'high' and 'very high'.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.

Schools

Schools continue to remain open for all children and young people as they have since the start of the autumn term for the duration of the national restrictions.

Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can take action to reduce risks still further.

We would expect schools to ensure any changes required in light of national restrictions are in place as soon as practically possible, and by Monday 9 November at the latest.
