

COVID-19 – Safe Wearing and Removal of Face Coverings

Langley School has adopted the following policy throughout its school sites, this may be subject to change and will be updated accordingly in line with government guidance.

We would not recommend those pupils in year 6 and below wear a face covering and strictly forbid any child under the age of 3 to wear a face covering in line with government, Public Health England (PHE) and National Health Service (NHS) guidance. All visitors to site will be expected to wear a face covering at all times unless they hold a medical or disability exemption from doing so.

Route Buses

Face coverings are required to be worn on school route buses for all children age 11 and above with the exception of those who have a recognised exemption, as below, this is because we are unable to maintain school allocated grouping within the route service and whilst social distancing will be encouraged, it may be restricted at times.

Please refer to the Langley School COVID-19 – Safe Use of School Transport guidance for further information.

Visitors – All visitors to our school sites are required to wear a face covering unless they have a recognised exemption, which should be notified prior to or upon arrival. Please refer to the COVID-19 - Visitors Policy for further information.

Pupil/Students - Year 9 to Upper 6th Pupils/Students are required to wear a face covering within enclosed communal areas of the school, unless they have a recognised exemption. This includes inside corridors, whilst queueing for the dining hall, if attending Chapel and within the Lower and Upper 6th Social/Study areas of the Alston Centre. There will be no requirement for pupils of Prep, Pre-Prep or Early Years to wear face coverings and we emphasise that children aged 3 and under should not wear a face covering in line with government, PHE and NHS guidance. Pupils/students will not be required to wear a covering outside, in classrooms and in the main school halls.

Staff – All staff members across both school sites are required to wear face coverings within enclosed communal areas of the schools, unless they have a recognised exemption. This will include, indoor corridors and whilst queueing inside for lunch or break. There will be no requirement for these to be worn in classrooms or office areas, but social distancing, adult to adult and adult to child should be followed where practically possible in line with the school's policies and procedures and government advice.

Where local restrictions apply

In areas where local lockdowns or restrictions are in place, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils (in years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain such as corridors.

In the event of new local restrictions being imposed, we will communicate quickly and clearly to staff, parents and pupils that the new arrangements require the use of face coverings in certain circumstances.

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate
- The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs.

Access to face coverings

It is reasonable to assume that staff and young people will now have access to face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, and Public Health England has made available resources on how to make a simple face coverings.

However, where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled or unsafe, we will have a small contingency supply available to meet such needs, these can be accessed by e mailing coronaupdate@langleyschool.co.uk

Face shields will be available to staff wishing to wear one, these will be allocated and registered and should be maintained by the individual in an acceptable, safe condition. New and replacement shields can be arranged by e mailing coronaupdate@langleyschool.co.uk

No-one will be excluded from education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.

Safe wearing and removal of face coverings

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

Wearers should not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

Please see further government guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

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