

Our policy on face coverings for adults and pupils as part of a safe return to school.

We are committed to ensuring all staff and pupils feel safe as they return to school. Every adult and child in the school plays an active part in helping to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Wigan is no longer one of the areas with heightened 'lockdown' restrictions because the infection rate is currently very low. However, we are not complacent about the risks of an increase in or transmission of the coronavirus in the future and so we all need to play our part to prevent this from happening. We are committed to ensuring that we can ensure the school operates within a 'new normal' so that pupils can flourish, thrive and succeed. The school has a range of measures in place to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. These include:

Regular handwashing: all adults and pupils are required to wash their hands when they enter the school site and at regular intervals throughout the day.

Hand sanitisation: when moving between rooms adults and pupil are required to sanitise their hands.

Social distancing: staff are required to avoid being in close proximity to others at all times and wherever possible maintain a 2 metre distance from each other and at least 1 metre for any sustained period.

Cleaning surfaces: it is a requirement that after every lesson each desk and chair will be cleaned down by the last person so that is ready for the next person.

Extended cleaning regime: frequently touched surfaces around the school will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day (e.g. dining room tables, door handles, bannisters, shared work areas).

No physical contact: staff and pupils must avoid hugging, touching each other or shaking hands.

Catch it, bin it, kill it: if you need to cough or sneeze you must use a tissue and then immediately bin it and then wash your hands.

Avoid face touching: to avoid any risk of a virus entering the body we all need to ensure that we avoid touching our faces. This is very hard not to do, so we will need to encourage each other.

In addition to all these measures, we will use face coverings at certain times as an additional measure to further protect each of us and provide reassurance to everyone that the school is a safe place to be.

Adults' use of visors and face masks.

In whole class teaching	When the teacher is at the front of the class speaking to the whole class they may, if they choose, wear a visor. All teachers will be provided with a visor for their own personal use.
When less than 2 metres from a pupil	If a teacher cannot ensure they are at least 2 metre away from a pupil when they are talking to the class they are required to wear their visor.
Working with a pupil one-to-one	Pupils need effective and timely feedback and teaching only from the front of the class will not always allow that.
Working with a vulnerable pupil	When an adult needs to work alongside a pupil who has an underlying health condition the adult must use a visor and the pupil wear a mask.
When on duty	When a member of staff is on duty inside or supervising a queue they will wear a visor.
When on patrol	Staff that are mobile round the school, visiting lessons and picking up pupils will always carry a mask and use a visor.
Underlying health conditions	If you suffer from an underlying health condition and your doctor or medical team has said you should wear a mask, let us know and we will respect that.

Pupils' use of face masks.

Wigan is no longer one of the areas with heightened 'lockdown' restrictions because the infection rate is currently very low. If this was the case (and the situation could change) the Government's advice is that pupils should wear a face mask in all communal areas, such as the dining room or when moving through corridors. In all areas of the country, pupils are expected to wear a face mask when they are travelling on public transport, just as we do when we go into shops. We recognise that although pupils in Wigan are not required to wear a mask in school, we want to go a stage further and give each adult and child in school that we are doing all we can to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. From the start of September, we are introducing a number of steps to keep pupils safe from coronavirus.

Hand washing: when pupils arrive at school they will be required to wash their hands.

Hand sanitisation: as pupils enter a new room there will be hand sanitiser that all pupils must use.

Cleaning desks and chairs: pupils will play their part in ensuring the school is safe by cleaning down their desk and chair after each lesson with antibacterial.

Wearing a mask in some areas of the school: in the table below you will see when you will be required to wear a mask and also where you do not have to (which will be most of the time).

Pupils' wearing of masks

In lessons	You will not need to wear a mask in lessons. In each lesson there will be a seating plan and you must sit where your teacher has decided is best for you. In most lessons, you will face the front of the class. In some classes, you may sit 'side on' but the teacher will make sure you are at least one metre from any other pupils you are facing.
In outside space	As you walk around the school outside in your zoned area you will not need to wear a mask. If you choose to, that is fine – no one will mind.
Queuing up for break/lunch	When you are in a queue it will be hard to socially distance and so you will need to wear a mask.
In a dining room	When you are in a smaller space where there will be a larger number of people you will need to wear a face mask.
Indoors (when wet)	When the weather is wet and you need to remain in your indoor zone you will need to wear a face mask.
On public transport	This is not a school rule, but one from the Government. If you travel on a bus to or from school you must wear a face mask.
Working with a teacher one-to-one or in small group.	Some pupils will be getting individual support in a classroom, maybe from a teaching assistant. The teacher or teaching assistant will wear a visor in that situation. As a pupil, you may choose to wear a mask in this situation, but you are not required to.
Underlying health conditions	If you suffer from an underlying health condition and your doctor or medical team has said you should wear a mask, let us know.

Some important things to note:

You will need to bring your own face mask to school.

You must not share your face mask with anyone else.

You need to clean your face mask each day or change it to ensure it is clean.

Your face mask is intended to protect you and the people you are with.

If you forget your face mask, speak to your form tutor or head of year who will be able to help.

This will all be explained to you in person at the start of term.