

# COCKBURN SCHOOL

Specialist status in the Performing Arts



**Executive Headteacher** Mr D Gurney BA (Hons) / NPQH / NLE  
**Head of School** Mr R Dixon BSc (Hons) / NPQH

28th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are continually reviewing the national, regional and local context in respect of the Coronavirus pandemic. Following key messages shared in the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Tuesday 22nd September 2020 and the announcement late Friday evening that the local government has designated Leeds under the category 'area of intervention' specific restrictions now apply in our community. In order to respond positively to the changing regional picture in which it is evident that the instances of COVID-19 within the community are increasing, we have made the decision, within the 11-16 mainstream schools, to make face coverings compulsory in corridors and communal areas from **Monday 28th September 2020**.

In the most recent letter regarding face coverings we sent on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 we explained that if local restrictions were applied then the wearing of face coverings would become **compulsory** in corridors and communal areas, in line with the government's guidance.

We have been very impressed by our students' diligent approach to the hygiene and safety measures already in place and as a consequence we feel certain our staff and students are well placed to accommodate this new routine of the wearing of face coverings into their daily practice.

This week we will be encouraging and reminding all members of our school community to practise wearing a face covering ahead of this becoming sanctioned as part of our behaviour policy from **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**.

As previously communicated, the protocol for the wearing of face coverings within our school:

- Face coverings must be plain coloured and must not be scarves, balaclavas or bandanas or have any slogans or logos on them. Face coverings should cover the wearer's nose and mouth and loop around each ear.
- It is the responsibility of the wearer to bring their own face covering.
- It is recommended that students bring more than one face covering into the school each day and that these are changed and washed regularly. Each face covering must be in a clear, resealable plastic bag which should itself, be kept in a bag. They can be worn when moving around corridors on arrival to the school, moving between lessons and when leaving the school.
- In line with government guidance face coverings will not be worn in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower and where they can inhibit learning. When not being worn, coverings must be kept in a clear, resealable plastic bag and this can be kept in a pocket or in a bag. The covering must not be left on any desk or table at any time.
- Once a face covering is in place on the wearer's face it should not be removed and the wearer should refrain from touching the covering/their face as much as possible. Where the wearer wishes to remove their face covering to eat at break or lunchtime they may do so, providing that they clean their hands prior to removing their face covering to place it in the resealable bag and then clean their hands again once the covering is back in the resealable bag.
- Inappropriate use of face coverings will be treated seriously and will be sanctioned in line with the school's behaviour policy.

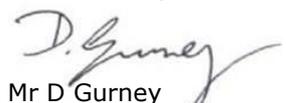
Government guidance states some staff and students will be exempt from wearing a face covering as follows:

- where a person is unable to wear a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause them severe distress
- if they are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate.

Where a student is unable to wear a face covering they will be issued with a sticker on their planner to ensure that they are not asked about their lack of face covering.

Please inform us if you think your child would be exempt and if you have any questions or concerns about this please do not hesitate to contact the school, [info@cockburnschool.org](mailto:info@cockburnschool.org)

Yours sincerely,

  
Mr D Gurney  
Executive Headteacher

  
Mr R Dixon  
Head of School

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