



Sheffield Lower School
Face Coverings at Sheffield Lower
Non-statutory policy draft in response to measures for Covid-19

Written by:	Adopted by staff on:	Ratified by Governors:	Review date:
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Rationale

It is the belief at Sheffield Lower School that users should feel as safe as possible in the setting. The school values the opinions and wishes of its users, and as such has a listening agenda with regards to the use of face coverings in school. Measures have been put in place following consultations with staff and users in a variety of ways, and an open door remit has been encouraged by senior leaders.

Procedures

The DfE has provided non-statutory guidance to ensure staff and pupils are kept in 'protective bubbles' alongside other measures for hygiene and managing symptomatic pupils.

This is supported by CEBM's guidance for a range of measures.

"Social distancing should be adapted and used alongside other strategies to reduce transmission, such as air hygiene, involving in part maximizing and adapting ventilation to specific indoor spaces, effective hand washing, regular surface cleaning, face coverings where appropriate and prompt isolation of affected individuals."
Centre for Evidence Based Medicine & University of Oxford

The DfE do not advocate the use of face coverings in schools, but allow head teachers to make discretionary exceptions pertinent to their own setting. Staff are encouraged at all times to speak with a member of the senior leadership team about any concerns or suggestions regarding Covid-19 safety measures.

At Sheffield Lower School we:

- Use a one way system keeping to the left of corridors, and ventilation indoors
- Corridors are marked with 2m distances and adults are asked to maintain this. Children are encouraged to.
- Class bubbles are used where possible, in addition to year group bubbles.
- Hand hygiene is a requirement, using sanitiser until handwashing, but never as an alternative
- Zones for comfort breaks and toileting have been created
- Zones and staggering for separating break times

- Staggering to reduce numbers on site at any one times, with a one way system enroute requested
- Use of visors required if entering a different bubble

Some pupils and adult school users will not be able to wear a visor, or may have a medical reason for needing to wear a face mask. Exemption is clearly laid out in the guidance.

Guidance to pupils has been provided, and children requiring face masks are expected to have two separate masks, freshly cleaned, for each day, with a bag for their sanitary removal and storage. They are not permitted to wear the same mask in school as the masks they wear coming and going from the school site.

Staff are asked to speak with a member of the senior leadership team if they require a mask in school.

Exceptions are made in communication with the head teacher by carrying out a risk assessment to ensure that the exceptional needs of staff members are fully appreciated and met.

Universal permission is facilitated for staff wishing to wear a mask in communal areas that are non-child facing, such as within the 'Learning Hub' or within 'The Office'.

The safe use of face coverings should be adhered to at all times.

Staff are responsible for ensuring they are adhering to the latest guidance for safe use of face coverings.

As at 08.10.2020 the advice from the links below is as follows:

How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

DfE guidance for 'Face coverings in education'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

How to wear a mask safely and when to do so is detailed here:

<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>

managing infection in high contact occupations

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895922/S0540_Managing_infection_risk_in_high_contact_occupations.pdf

Other guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Policies in school relevant to the rationale and presentation of this policy

- Wellbeing, character & resilience (staff)
- Safeguarding
- Learning and teaching
- Medical needs