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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



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Dear Parent/Carer

You may already be aware that the Scottish Government updated their guidance for schools yesterday. Details of these changes and other school information is included in this update.

Face Coverings

The updated guidance relates directly to face coverings in school and on school transport.

Face coverings should be worn from Monday 31st August, in the following circumstances, except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering:

- **where adults and young people in secondary schools are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas, including toilets; and**
- **in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and students are travelling on dedicated school transport**

We will communicate this information to all of our pupils over the course of this week. We will also consult with pupils and staff regarding the wearing of face coverings in certain circumstances in some subject areas e.g. Home Economics.

The guidance has been updated based on further scientific data and the following points are for information;

- updated guidance is based on the advice of the World Health Organisation, which was published on 21st August 2020
- evidence supporting the benefit of face coverings protecting others has grown, with emerging evidence to suggest that the wearer of a face covering can also be protected
- face coverings should be seen as just one measure in school. We will continue to encourage our established hygiene protocols e.g. personal hand and respiratory hygiene etc.
- anyone, students or staff, wishing to wear a face covering in school should be permitted to do so
- some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings

- face coverings should not generally be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments; *we are consulting on this with staff and pupils in line with other secondary schools*
- face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or children and young people

Pupils who travel to school on a contract bus have been provided by a mask by Midlothian council, members of the senior leadership team check that pupils are wearing mask when the buses leave the school, however, we have had reports from parents that some pupils are choosing to remove their mask when the bus has left the school grounds. Please can you go over these requirements with your child particularly in light of the new government guidance?

Returning from Holiday

We have been alerted by the Health Protection Team that there have been instances where pupils across Scotland have returned to school directly from a holiday in a country which is on the quarantine list. Any person returning from holiday from a country not exempt from quarantine should self-isolate for 14 days prior to returning to school. Please use the links provided to keep up to date with the current guidance;

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>

School Health and Safety

We continue to review all of the measures we have in place including our movement rules, base classrooms etc. However, this week we have encountered a number of challenges from pupils who are not adhering to the protocols we have in place. The choices some pupils have made are compromising the safety measures we have worked hard to establish to reassure all members of our community. Senior members of staff have spoken with the pupils concerned; should a lack of co-operation continue we will contact parents/carers directly to discuss this.

Thank you again for the feedback we have received from you and please continue to contact us if you have any concerns or queries. All of the staff team really appreciate your patience and support and are enjoying working with the pupils again.

Yours sincerely

L Black

Lynn Black

Headteacher