



Education

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Dear Parents

The Scottish Government has announced that in light of the latest scientific and public health advice, face coverings should now be worn in secondary schools by adults and pupils moving around the school, unless exemptions apply, in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets), and where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain. This will apply from Monday 31 August.

Pupils and staff should be aware of how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings safely. The key points as outlined in the updated guidance from Scottish Government (click here for full guidance) are as follows:

- Face coverings must not be shared with others;
- Before putting on, or removing a face covering, hands should be washed with soap and water or hand sanitiser;
- The face covering should fit comfortably over the nose, mouth and chin. Pupils should avoid touching it unnecessarily while wearing it;
- Face coverings should be temporarily stored in a washable sealed bag or container when not being used, during classes for example. They must not be placed on surfaces due to the possibility of contamination;
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use, at 60 degrees centigrade, or in boiling water. Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Pupils should be encouraged not to litter and to place their face coverings in the general waste bin. They are not considered to be clinical waste in the same way that used PPE may be.

Pupils are expected to use their own face coverings in school, however, if they forget to bring one, or if their mask gets damaged, they will be supplied with a disposable mask by the school for use that day.

Some people are exempt from wearing face coverings. A full list of exemptions can be found on the Scottish Government website: www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/

Argyll and Bute Council already has a policy in place whereby pupils are required to wear a face covering on school transport while travelling to and from school. This policy remains in place.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation during this time. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch directly with your school.

Yours sincerely

Anne S Paterson

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