



Face coverings at JKHS

National guidance on face coverings was updated on Friday of last week. The local authority issued guidance on this very recently, Masks are now **recommended by Herefordshire LA in communal spaces**. The LA newsletter to schools has this advice from the local Outbreak Control Group:

- ***We recommend the use of face coverings in school communal areas for secondary schools. We are aware that the guidance around this has not yet settled nationally but the group recommend their use as a positive benefit - schools are being allowed to decide for themselves by DfE. This is a link to the guidance on the exemption from face coverings. [Face covering exemptions](#)***
- *We also advise that schools are supportive of individuals that wish to wear face coverings in all areas (pupils and staff), this may include those who are concerned about spreading the virus to potentially vulnerable family members at home, so this may include young carers.*

JKHS will therefore recommend that students and staff wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around the school. There is no requirement for these to be worn in classrooms. Indeed, national guidance says:

- *Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.*

JKHS will **not** require a student who wishes to wear a face covering in a lesson to remove it.

JKHS guidance on face covering usage:

- It's up to students & staff to bring their own face coverings. A small stock of spares is held at school but these are for emergency use only.
- Students & staff need a sealable plastic bag to store face coverings in when they are not in use.
- Don't touch the front of the face covering when removing or putting them on and take them off with clean or sanitized hands.
- If a face covering becomes damp it shouldn't be used. The swing bins in classrooms should be used for disposing of discarded face coverings, not general rubbish bins.
- Face coverings should be worn on school buses, when moving around the school between lessons and in communal areas.

September 2nd 2020

