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Europa School UK

Face Coverings Policy

Version and Date		Action/Notes
V1	August 2020	Following UK guidance regarding use of Face coverings in School settings and the Governing Body agreement to adopt use of Face Coverings for staff and secondary students in communal settings
V2	January 2021	Extension of the use of Masks given current evidence on the increased transmissibility of the virus, and a much higher incidence of infection in Oxfordshire than we had in September
V3	March 2021	update for reopening of the school March 2021
V4	June 2021	Update following DFE guidance of 17 May
V5	July 2021	Update following DfE guidance 14 July
Review Date		Review frequency: Update with latest UK government advice

The following section is extracted from UK Government advice

In the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. You can buy reusable or single-use face coverings.

Face coverings are not classified as PPE (personal protective equipment) which is used in a limited number of settings to protect wearers against hazards and risks, such as surgical masks or respirators used in medical and industrial settings.

Face coverings are instead largely intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of virus that causes coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

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

According to the UK government's current operational guidance for COVID management, Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#face-coverings>

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where school users may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

This policy sets out the Europa School UK specific rules for the use of Face coverings in our school setting. The policy aims to carefully balance the desire to minimise virus transmission with the need to ensure an appropriate environment for children to thrive and to learn. It will be kept under review and modified as required in the light of evolving guidelines, evidence, experience and circumstances.

Staff (including supply staff)

All staff are **required** to wear a face covering in communal areas in the school **where there is a potential of being in a crowded and confined environment.**

Staff should consider wearing a face covering in any shared offices that allow 2m distancing but are poorly ventilated.

Where staff arrange face to face meetings, staff should consider whether face coverings are required (as above) or advisable considering the meeting environment. If a meeting can take place virtually, then this is the preferred method.

Supervisors and canteen staff must wear a face mask when serving lunches in the canteen. Face visors are optional and will be provided by the school - they must be stored in a named zip lock bag in the canteen. Visors must not be shared, and they must be cleaned after use.

Staff who supervise or deal with a suspected case of COVID-19 must wear the correct medical PPE (including face mask) and must ensure that the PPE is disposed of safely.

Single use surgical facemasks, aprons and gloves will be provided in hygiene boxes in every classroom and staff area for use by staff for first aid and dealing with ill children. The site team have PPE including face masks with filtering to address cleaning issues involving bodily fluid.

Secondary Students

Secondary Students are **requested** to use a face covering whilst moving about the school between classes and within the school buildings. This includes any communal settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as in corridors, meeting rooms, canteen queues or at the main reception.

No pupil or student will be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.

Primary Students

Primary students are not *required* to wear facial coverings whilst on the school site.

Parents and Visitors to the school

Parents and visitors to the school must wear a face covering at all times while on the school site, including during drop off and pick up.

Contractors

Contractors on the site **must** wear a face covering when moving about the site and when working within the school buildings when they cannot maintain social distancing

Building Contractors on the school site **must** adhere to the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) guidance on the use of face coverings.

<http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Use-of-Face-Coverings-in-Construction-during-Coronavirus.pdf>

Dedicated and Public transport to the school

Students and staff who use the school bus or public transport **must** use a facial covering during the journey and whilst queuing for the bus.

In circumstances where face coverings are recommended

If there is an outbreak in the school, a director of public health might advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). The school's COVID-19 outbreak management plans cover this possibility.

Provision of masks

Staff and students should wear a plain or lightly patterned face covering which is cleaned every day and carried in a zip lock bag where it can be stored safely. They are expected to bring in at least two face masks to allow for the continued use during the day. Designs should be appropriate to a school environment.

Exemptions

Some individuals may be exempt from wearing face coverings. For example, people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, or if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate. The school management will discuss individual cases and expects the school community to be sensitive to those needs.

Training

All site users should watch the YouTube video from the World Health Organisation (WHO) regarding the safe use of face masks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk

Face masks must be cleaned every day. It is recommended that site users have a supply of reusable masks so that they can rotate their use to allow cleaning as well as have a reserve.

Emergency supply

The main reception holds an emergency stock of disposable face masks, but staff and students are expected to supply their own for school use.

Visors will be supplied to staff if an individual risk assessment specifies a need.

Safe Disposal of Facemasks

The school has yellow bins with lids for the disposal of single use face covering – they are situated outside the main reception and at the bus bay. These bins will be double-bagged, and the bins will be emptied regularly, and bags stored for three days after which they can be disposed using the normal waste collections. In the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19, the stored bags will be sent for special medical disposal.