



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On 26 August, the Department for Education published updated guidance for schools on the wearing of face coverings.

[Face coverings in education - GOV.UK](#)

In areas of '[national government intervention](#)' (lockdown) the government requires adults and students to wear face coverings when moving around their school and that other headteachers have the flexibility to introduce face coverings in their schools according to their own circumstances.

The World Health Organisation [stated on 21 August](#) that children aged 12 and over should wear a mask in school '*when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.*'

Nationwide, the government is NOT recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures.

On the basis of the national guidance for schools, which William Farr has followed since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March, **we will NOT be making the wearing of face coverings mandatory in school** at present. This is because the protective measures, as outlined in my letter of 17 July, which includes year-group bubbles, social distancing measures, staggered break/lunch/dismissal times, increased personal hygiene and cleaning regimes, will be put in place to mitigate risk. Please see the Risk Assessment on the school website for further information. Lincolnshire currently has one of the lowest transmission rates of coronavirus and no cases have been reported in school. The Government has currently said that face coverings can have a negative impact on teaching and learning and communication so their use in the classroom should be avoided.

This means that from 3 September there is **no current expectation or insistence that staff and students wear face coverings in school. However, we recognise that some staff and students may choose to wear face coverings in school and if this is the case then they are permitted to be worn.**

The issue of face coverings will be reviewed on a regular basis when term begins and should the situation change locally or nationally parents/carers will be informed immediately.

As per my email to parents last week, the wearing of a face covering on both dedicated school and public service buses is mandatory. Please see the link below which has been previously sent out:

[COVID-19 information for school transport - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming your child back in school in September.

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Yours faithfully

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