

Dear Parent/Carer,

16 October 2020

As you will have heard, from Saturday London will be moving into Tier two restrictions. This means:

- Mixing of households indoors is not allowed.
- Rule of six applies to private gardens and outdoor spaces - social distancing rules also apply.
- Pubs and restaurants remain open, but no mixing of households inside and 10pm curfew.

The guidance now explains:

'In areas where local lockdowns or restrictions are in place, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils (in years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain such as corridors.'

This guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-forfull-opening-schools>

This will mean that from Monday 19th October your daughter/sons should bring a face covering with them into school. They will wear their face covering as they line up and wait to enter the building, sanitise their hands and make their way to their classrooms. Once inside their classroom and seated they can remove their covering safely. They will wear their covering any time they move around the school, in all corridors, circulation spaces and when they go to the toilet. They will not have to wear a mask if they are outside at lunchtime or in the canteen but we ask for you to support us by having a conversation with your child so that they socially distance themselves from others where possible.

We recommend that your child brings a different face mask to the one they are using for public transport to and from school. We also recommend that you child brings with them a personal hand sanitiser to ensure they can use this every time they remove or put on their mask.

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

Interim Principal Hannah Fahey

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs. In order for us to do this, please can we ask that any parents contact our Vice Principal in charge of Behaviour and Attitudes to request exemption from using a covering in communal areas on agallagher@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk.

Please can you discuss the contents of this letter with your daughter/son over the weekend.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Fahey
Interim Principal