



## Joseph Leckie Academy

1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian/ Carer

### **Face covering guidance for Joseph Leckie Academy**

In line with the most recent government guidance on the 25 August 2020, Joseph Leckie Academy is recommending students wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, yard, dining areas and toilets.

This decision is based on the latest [World Health Organisation guidance](#) that states that young people aged 12 and over “should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area”.

We are taking this precaution to further reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. This is in addition to the measures the Academy is already taking to reduce the risk. We are doing everything we can to reduce an outbreak that leads to the closure of the whole Academy.

- Students are recommended to wear PPE (face masks) in communal area, such as: on the corridors, in the Dining areas or in their break/lunch zones and at lesson changeovers.
- Although not currently recommended in the guidance (see government guidance in the student protocol on the website) students may wear face masks in the classroom where they feel safer to do so.
- Wearing of face masks will become mandatory (except for anyone who is exempt on medical grounds) if Walsall becomes an area of intervention (see government guidance). The Academy reserves the right to make this mandatory at any time in the future based on our on-going Risk Assessment. Therefore, we encourage you to purchase some suitable face masks (in line with the Academy expectations) for your child and encourage them to wear one as they may well become mandatory.
- When your child wears a face mask these should have a plain, simple pattern or be a disposable surgical mask. It is advisable that your child has more than one so that it can be regularly washed. There should be NO designs/logos/messages on the masks. Other types of face coverings such as buffs, scarves, snoods, balaclavas etc will NOT be allowed as these are not safety masks.

### **Joseph Leckie Academy**

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The Leadership Team reserve the right to refuse masks or alternative face coverings that are inappropriate.

- Masks must be worn correctly covering the nose, mouth and chin only. Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching (facilities for this are provided around the Academy site)– including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Your child should bring their own plastic bags to store their face mask. They should not touch the front of the face covering. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.
- See the Frequently Asked Questions below.

If we do have to make this mandatory in the future and your child has a health condition that prevents them wearing a face covering, then please contact your child's Head of Year so that they can discuss their requirements.

We ask that you please encourage your child in wearing a face mask for their safety in communal areas and by ensuring they have an appropriate face covering with them which is in line with Academy expectations.

This recommendation has been put in place to protect all students including your child and all staff. These same recommendations also apply to staff. It is very important that all students start to engage with this as it may well become mandatory in the near future. We will let you know if we receive any further guidance on this.

We would also like to remind you that if your child displays any of the symptoms of coronavirus

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of or taste

Then they must stay at home and you will need to book telephone NHS 119 or visit [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus). A face covering does not change this and also does not replace the need for your child to socially distance from their friends (at least 1m recommended) and 2m from other adults.

Thank you for your support to keep our students, staff and Walsall community safe.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Cook  
Acting Principal

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a face covering?

A face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. You can buy reusable or single-use face coverings as described above.

### Who does a face covering protect?



Face coverings are 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).

### How do I wear a face covering?



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 Organisation 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

[Find out more on how to wear a face covering](#)

### Can I make my own face covering?



Yes, there is a simple guide available. A cloth face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably so be considerate of materials and fabrics that may irritate different skin types.

[Find out more on how to make your own face covering](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

## Why doesn't my child need to wear a face covering in the classroom?

Face coverings do not need to be worn in classrooms, because other protective measures have been introduced by the school e.g. rearranging classrooms so social distancing measures can be applied.

## How do I know if my child does not have to wear a face covering?



There are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. At secondary schools these include;

- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate

[Find out more on who is exempt from wearing a face covering](#)

[Access exemption card templates](#)

## Where should my child store their face covering?

Once removed your child can store their reusable face coverings in a plastic bag, your child should bring a bag with them for this purpose. It is important to wash the face covering regularly and follow the washing instructions for the fabric. You can use your normal detergent and wash and dry it with other laundry.

Please throw away the face covering if it is damaged.

## What should my child do when wearing a face covering?

They 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)

## **How should my child remove their face covering?**

They should;

- 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