



Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Face Coverings in Schools

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in the fight against the spread of coronavirus. As part of this effort the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued new advice that children aged 12 and above should wear face coverings in schools in corridors and communal spaces in areas where social distancing is difficult to achieve. The government has subsequently changed their guidance and are now recommending that adults and children wear face coverings in communal spaces in secondary schools and higher education settings.

In York we do not currently have high numbers of cases of Covid-19 and little evidence of widespread transmission of coronavirus. But as a local authority we have a priority to get children back to school safely, so although York is managing coronavirus well at the moment we are strongly recommending that your child/children wear a face covering when returning to secondary school or higher education now. So, in line with WHO advice, we are recommending that face coverings are worn in communal areas such as corridors and on school transport but not in classrooms. Schools have already taken steps to minimise the risk of cross infection in classroom settings and it is important that face coverings do not get in the way of the learning environment.

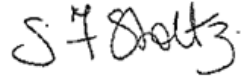
Regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or the use of hand sanitiser when access to soap and water is difficult remain the single most

If you have any specific concerns please speak to your child's school in the first instance. For general enquiries please feel free to contact the local public health team at enquiries.publichealth@york.gov.uk or telephone 01904 553005.

Yours sincerely




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