

EBE/sr

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

I hope you and your families remain well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back. Thank you to the parents/carers who were able to attend our parent forum yesterday. We know the time didn't work for everyone and therefore we are running another session on Thursday, 3rd September from 6pm-7pm. Please email talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk for the code.

Today, I write to you with specific guidance on the wearing of face coverings following recent announcements from the Government on this matter. The Government guidance for schools is based on the recommendation from Public Health England that states: "Public Health England (PHE) does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission".

We hope that our many measures including to 'bubble' children in specific year groups, 'zones' of the school, gives you confidence in your child's return to school. However, we have recognised that there are areas in a school where it is difficult to manage some inadvertent close contact between 'bubbles', such as corridors and social areas.

Consequently, if pupils or staff feel more comfortable wearing a mask in social/communal areas, then this is permitted. However, to ensure the safety of your child and other pupils the following conditions must be followed:

1. Pupils must bring their own new disposable mask or clean reusable mask each day to ensure minimal risk of infection being brought into a school.
2. All disposable face masks must be worn properly, covering the mouth and nose.
3. They must be put on and removed properly without touching the front of the mask and stored in a sealable plastic bag (such as a sandwich bag) when not being worn, for example when eating food.
4. Pupils must clean their hands thoroughly before putting on and when removing a face mask within the school building, either washing their hands or using hand sanitiser.
5. The disposable face masks must be disposed of in the lidded bins within each classroom or at home.
6. Face coverings should be suitable for the school setting and not feature inappropriate or offensive slogans or motifs. Plain facemasks ideally black are appropriate to wear.

You will also be aware that the Government has said that children age 11 and over must wear face coverings when using public transport. Any pupil arriving at school on public transport must remove the face mask or face covering worn for travelling before they enter the school and clean their hands either by washing them or using hand sanitiser. This is to prevent introducing potential infection from close contact on transport into the school setting.

Continued/...

Willingdon
Community School
Headteacher:
Ms E. Beer



Broad Road
Lower Willingdon
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN20 9QX



T 01323 485254
E office@willingdonschool.org.uk
W willingdonschool.org.uk



If continuing to wear a face mask for parts of the school day, an additional new disposable mask or additional clean reusable mask will also be required, not the same face covering they have used on the transport. Masks must be kept in separate sealable plastic bags during the day and not mixed. Reusable masks should be thoroughly washed in soap and water at the end of each day.

Face coverings are not required or encouraged in classrooms at this stage. However, my feeling is that we need to take a sensible approach that is respectful of individual needs and concerns; as such, students and adults who decide to wear face coverings in classrooms will be allowed to do so.

We appreciate that the above conditions may be challenging for some families. If you need further support, please contact us and we will consider such requests on a case by case basis. These arrangements are based on current guidance. If there are any changes to the guidance, we will of course update our advice and let you know.

As always thank you for your support. We are really looking forward to seeing your children again very soon.

Best wishes,
Ms Beer
Headteacher