



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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DAI/CMJ

14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

You will no doubt be aware of the changes which have been announced by the Government regarding pupils wearing facemasks in school. From Monday 17 May, the Government have outlined that it is no longer necessary for pupils to wear a facemask either in classrooms or in any other area of school (see below).

When to wear a face covering in education

"As part of the Step 3 roadmap, it has been determined that it is no longer necessary to recommend the additional precautionary face covering measures that we recommended from the 8 March. The decision to lift further restrictions at Step 3 has followed a review of the latest data on infection and vaccination rates. From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas)."

As we have done throughout this pandemic, we will take this guidance and look at what will work best in our school setting. We have decided that whilst the guidance outlines it is not necessary for pupils to wear masks, we want to be able to support those pupils and their families who feel that they would like to continue to wear a mask in classrooms or in other areas of the school. This means that from Monday 17 May it will become optional for pupils to decide whether they wear a mask in school.

The new guidance also states that staff in schools, as well as any visitors, must continue to wear a mask if they cannot maintain a distance of 2m from others. Staff and visitors must also wear a mask in corridors and other high-density areas.

There are times when staff in school need to work more closely with pupils (such as giving help and explaining tasks individually). On these occasions, it might be appropriate for both the pupil and the member of staff to wear a mask. It would be really helpful if your child could carry a spare mask with them in school for such instances. Naturally, we will continue to carry supplies of spare masks so that if a pupil does not have their own mask, we can provide them with one in these circumstances so the pupil will not be disadvantaged.

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Finally, the Government have outlined that:

- “The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.”

As always, we will keep you informed if there are any additional changes required in school to keep our pupils safe. We will continue to carry out all other actions implemented to ensure that the school environment is COVID secure. These actions are outlined in our whole school Risk Assessment ([LINK to RA](#)). Should you have any questions regarding this, please complete the General Enquiries form which is available on the school website ([LINK to enquiries form](#)). Thank you for your continued support in these matters.

Yours faithfully



Mr. D. Airey
Headteacher

