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engage and promote success

5th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Face coverings at Maplewell Hall School

As we have now entered a national lockdown, it's imperative that we tighten our restrictions regarding face coverings within school. Below are a number of questions and answers to help you guide and advise your child before they return to school on **Monday 9th November**.

When will my child need to wear a face covering at school?

Every student will be expected to wear a face covering when transitioning from one place to another, within the school grounds. This could be when travelling to the dining room, toilet, bus lanes or simply from one room to another within their bubble. In addition, students are able to continue wearing their masks in lessons if they so wish. However, they can remove them when sat down at their work station in the classroom.

All students will still be required to wear face coverings on school transport. This is essential as social distancing is clearly a challenge when travelling on any of Leicestershire County Councils modes of transport.

What will my child need?

Your child needs to come to school with:

- A face covering. We'd recommend a reusable one so that they can use it more than once, as they'll need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this isn't an option, they'll need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day. Their face covering should be secured to their head using ear loops only.
- A sealable plastic bag to keep their face covering in when they're not using it so that it doesn't contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school. This would be used when eating and when sat in lessons if they chose to remove the mask.



Where can I get a face covering?

Reusable and single-use face coverings are available to buy in shops or online. We've attached instructions from the government on how to make a cloth face covering if this would be a preferred option for you as a family. However, please supervise your child if they'll be making it themselves.

How should my child use their face covering?

We would like you to follow this link and watch [this video](#) from the World Health Organisation with your child so they know how to wear their face covering safely. We'll watch this in class too. Their face covering needs to:

- Cover their nose and mouth when they're wearing it.
- They shouldn't touch the front of the face covering or the part that's touched their mouth or nose.
- They should wash their hands before and after touching the face covering, including to take it off or put it on. They should store it in an individual, sealable plastic bag between uses
- If it becomes damp, they shouldn't wear it, and they should replace it carefully
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use (**not** in a recycling bin).

How often will it need to be washed?

Reusable face coverings will need to be washed at the end of each day, ready for your child to wear the next day. You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent. If your child has borrowed a single use mask from school, this will need to be disposed of and NOT used again.

What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

Students that are exempt from wearing face coverings won't need to wear one in school. Please let us know by contacting the school admin team if your child [is exempt](#) so that we don't ask them to wear a face covering. We would expect some sort of medical evidence or equivalent to accompany this request.

What if my child forgets their face covering?

We'll have a small supply of disposable spares available at school. To be safe in the knowledge that everyone has one, please make sure your child has their own so that we can keep our supply of spares for emergencies.

Sources

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders, based on the following sources. All information is correct as of 11am Thursday 3 September.

- > [Face coverings in education](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- > [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#), GOV.UK – DfE