

Harlaw Academy

18-20 Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1RG
Tel: 01224 589251

E-mail: HarlawAcademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk
www.harlawacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk



Head Teacher:
Mr R McLaren

Dear Parent/Carer

Headteacher Update – Face coverings

Following an announcement by the Deputy First Minister on Tuesday 25 August 2020, there has been a change to the guidance for all staff and pupils across Scotland regarding the use of face coverings in school. **The changes to the guidance will take effect from Monday 31 August.**

The new guidance states that:

- adults and pupils in secondary schools should wear a face covering when moving about the school in corridors and communal areas (including toilets), where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain
- adults and pupils aged 5 and over should wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport or public transport

For us, this will mean that face coverings should be worn on entering the building, in corridors between classes, if a pupil is out of a class for any reason or using the canteen and toilets. Obviously face coverings do not require to be worn when eating and drinking in the school.

A reminder too that face coverings must be worn by pupils if they are in local shops during lunch breaks and will also be required on all school transport or public transport.

The new advice states that face coverings are not required in classrooms and learning areas. However, as before, face coverings may be worn in classrooms by young people and teachers should they wish to.

Staff and pupils should ensure they:

- bring their own face coverings to school
- store these safely in a washable, sealable bag or container when not in use
- wash reusable face coverings in hot water at the end of each day
- safely and hygienically dispose of disposable face coverings after use.

Where teachers and support staff cannot maintain a 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more), face coverings must be worn.



Please remember that a face covering can be as simple as a scarf, snood or other piece of cloth which covers the nose and mouth.

We know that there are some adult and young people who cannot wear a face covering due to medical reasons. In these few cases those adults and young people will not be required to wear a face covering. **If this is the case for your child, we would ask that you contact your child's Guidance teacher at the school who will make sure staff are aware.**

We know that there will be times when pupils will forget to bring their face covering to school. If this is the case pupils will be able to pick up a disposable face covering for the day from their entry door area when they enter the school in the morning.

If you think you may have difficulty in sourcing a face covering for your child please contact your child's Guidance Teacher at the school.

Further information on face coverings is available from the Scottish Government website:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-2/>

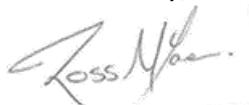
Full face covering guidance is available on this link:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

Finally, can I say that our school community has done an amazing job in following the new procedures we have put in place to keep everyone as safe as we can, often despite some challenging circumstances. Our procedures for sanitising, wiping down workstations, the one-way systems and staggered break and lunch times are all working really well thanks to the responsible behaviour of our pupils. Several pupils and members of staff have commented on the calm, more purposeful and respectful atmosphere experienced in the school on our return.

In light of the heavy rains experienced on Tuesday this week and our learning from this, I will share our revised wet weather arrangements plan with you early next week. The National Guidelines for school reopening continue to make this challenging for our school context, but we endeavour to do the very best we can to protect our pupils.

Thank you for your support with this and please keep reinforcing the importance of these measures which allow for schools to open. I appreciate that many of procedures we have in place are not ideal, but wish to assure, every decision I take places the best interests of our pupils and colleagues, firmly at the centre.

Yours sincerely,



Ross McLaren
Headteacher

