

14 May 2021

Dear Families,

### Update to guidance on wearing face masks around The Misbourne

Following the Government's announcement earlier this week, guidance for secondary schools regarding the wearing of face masks around school sites has been updated. The DfE guidance states that:

**“From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the national roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms.**

**In all schools 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 a result of this update, the adjustments we will be making from Monday 17 May are as follows:

1. Face masks will not be mandatory in classrooms. Staff and students will continue to have the option to wear one if they wish.
2. We do, however, ask that you still send your child in with a face mask each day, as they **will** be required at times when working more closely with staff who are supporting them in their learning, e.g. when working with a TA or 1:1 support from a teacher in lessons and a dividing screen is not available. If they do forget, one will be provided but this will cause unnecessary interruption to learning which we would like to avoid.
3. Staff and students aged 11 and over **must continue** to wear face coverings on dedicated school or public transport. This is also recommended when car sharing.
4. Students do not have to wear face masks in corridors or communal areas as we will be keeping in place our strict start and end of lesson procedures and one-way systems, which help to avoid any overcrowding and face-to-face contact. However, as with all other situations, student can continue to wear a face mask if they wish.
5. Face masks will be compulsory for staff and visitors outside of the classroom, so in communal areas and corridors where social distancing is not possible.

**The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:**

***“A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does”***

**Ofsted**



6. Some staff and students are exempt from wearing a face mask. This will still be applicable if working 1:1 so face shields or screens will continue to be used where possible in these instances.

We appreciate that we are not out of the woods yet and we will continue to follow our Covid-19 precautions to protect our community. Many of our staff are yet to have even their first vaccination, just one of the reasons that it is imperative we continue to maintain social distancing, practice good hand hygiene and ventilation, which we understand have the biggest impact on reducing the spread of any virus.

In addition to this, by continuing to carry out our twice-weekly home testing and recording the results on the NHS website, we will be able to respond quickly should the need arise and further protect our community.

We will continue to review the guidance as it changes and will keep you updated accordingly. There will be an update to our risk assessment posted on our website shortly.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation in helping to keep our community safe. All additional information regarding our Covid-19 procedures is available on our website [here](#).

Yours faithfully,



**Ms Jo Meloni**  
**Headteacher**

