

Face coverings – 2 metre and 1 metre plus information

The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances.

Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.

In primary schools where social distancing is not possible in areas outside of classrooms between members of staff or visitors, for example in staffrooms, headteachers will have the discretion to decide whether to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to them wearing face coverings in these circumstances.

Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, **face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.** Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing [face coverings](#). This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs.

Spaces where face coverings are not required

- Classrooms (the government has said that face coverings should not be worn here)
- School hall: staff meetings can take place in here providing staff are 2 metres apart.
- Playground and outdoor spaces
- Corridor spaces where staff are able to keep 2 metres apart. Please **KEEP RIGHT** when moving around school.
- The staffroom, multipurpose room and meeting room have limits on the door for how many people can safely be in those rooms. Staff may choose to wear a covering if they would like to.

School office space:

Staff should not go into the school office. Please go round to the window to talk to office staff. This will preserve the integrity of the office staff bubble.

Where the school telephone needs to be used by other staff members, this will be subject to risk assessment in school.

Essential visitors in school (child protection / SEN support / contractors) :

These should follow the guidance above.