



Thursday 27th August 2020

Update for Parents/Carers and Students: the use of face coverings in Brooke Weston Trust Schools

Dear Parents/Carers,

Earlier this week the government changed its policy on the use of face coverings in schools. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education> for more detail. The revised guidance includes the statement “*Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures.*” We have considered the government guidance carefully and adapted our procedures for schools accordingly. We hope you will agree we have tried to find a reasonable and balanced position. However, to ensure we cater for any individual student or family circumstances that our general approach does not address, all BWT Principals have full discretion to agree alternative arrangements on a case by case basis if necessary. We really want to work through this with you and we thank you in advance for your cooperation in implementing this new system, which is intended to keep us all – students and staff – as safe as possible. Naturally, we will continue our dialogue with you and keep these arrangements under review, ready to make amendments if and where necessary.

The following arrangements come into effect from September 2020

Primary Schools

Primary school children do not need to wear face coverings. Any parent/carer wishing their child to do so should speak with the school directly to discuss their situation after this Bank Holiday weekend.

Secondary Schools

Start of the day: It will be mandatory for every student to be wearing a face covering on arrival at school and to keep this on until they are within their allocated year group bubble zone.

During the day: Students will not wear face coverings whilst in their bubble zone or during lessons. Senior leaders will keep any points of potential congestion in school under review. If required, they will stipulate when and where face coverings must be worn by students and staff during the day. All such information will be communicated to students daily and clearly displayed on information screens in schools.

End of the day: It will be mandatory for every student to be wearing a face covering prior to exiting their year group bubble zone and leaving the building.

Keeping face coverings clean: All students should have a clean small plastic bag or container in which to keep their face covering when it is not being worn.

Face coverings for secondary students to be supplied by BWT

We are asking all secondary students to supply their own face covering in the first instance, but we are pleased to announce we will be giving every secondary student **three reusable face coverings free-of-charge**. The model chosen meets the quality marks referred to in government guidance. They have been ordered and will be issued as soon as

we receive them – hopefully within the next week or so. We request that students then wear these coverings once supplied and you may wish to add their name on the inside. We will also focus on helping students develop good habits in looking after their face covering as set out below:

When fitting a face covering:

- if possible, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before fitting
- try to only handle the straps, ties or clips and avoid wearing on the neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with the mouth and nose
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you touch it a lot
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot of times in quick succession
- do not lend your face covering to anyone else

When removing a face covering:

- if single use, dispose of it carefully in a waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, place it in a clean bag/container kept solely for this purpose
- if possible, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

When washing a face covering:

- reusable face coverings should be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

Finally, we hope you will appreciate that for hygiene reasons it must be each student's responsibility to keep their face covering clean and secure as staff will not be able to assist. Should doubt arise about a student's ability to manage this, the school will require a discussion with parents. If after reading this letter you have any questions, please do contact your school after the Bank Holiday weekend and they will of course endeavour to help.

Very best wishes to you and your family for the term ahead. It is good to be back.



Dr Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive
Brooke Weston Trust

The face covering advice is extracted from full government guidance which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>