



Parent Factsheet: Face coverings in schools

Now that Walsall is classified as at the 'high' local alert level, secondary pupils will need to wear a face covering when moving through shared areas of the school.

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

Your child will need to wear a face covering at our school as Walsall is now at a **high** local alert level.

Where exactly will my child need to wear it in school?

- They **will** need to wear it when they are moving through shared indoor areas of the school where it is difficult to stick to social distancing, particularly in corridors.
- They **will not** need to wear a face covering outside or in their classroom

What will my child need?

Your child needs to come to school with:

- A **face covering**. We would recommend a reusable one so that they can use it more than once, as they will need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this is not an option, they will 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 are not using it so that it does not contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school

Where can I get a face covering?

- Reusable and single-use face coverings are available to buy in shops or online
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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
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How should my child use their face covering?

- You can watch [this video](#) from the World Health Organisation with your child so they know how to wear their face covering safely. We will also watch this in school during form time
 - Their face covering needs to cover their nose and mouth when they are wearing it
 - They should not touch the front of the face covering or the part that has 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 should not wear it, and they should replace it carefully
 - Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use (**not** in a recycling bin)
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What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

- They will not need to wear one in school
 - Please let us know by contacting your child's Head of Year if your child is exempt so that staff do not ask them to wear a face covering
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What about my younger child?

- The current guidance on wearing face coverings does not apply to children under the age of 11
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What if my child forgets their face covering?

- We will have a small supply of 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