

Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE
CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
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An important update on the use of face coverings in school

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students and staff back to school next Wednesday. As you know, we are implementing many new measures in order to mitigate any risks of spreading coronavirus. We are confident that these measures will ensure that the environment is as safe as possible. For example, additional procedures include but are not limited to:

Ensuring students who travel on school transport follow comprehensive new measures including the compulsory use of face coverings and allocated seats;

Students washing or sanitising their hands on arrival and departure;

Students being placed in Year group 'bubbles' in clearly designated areas;

Teachers moving to students in order to avoid crowded corridors between lessons;

Seating plans in all lessons resulting in us having a comprehensive database of contacts;

Students sitting in rows rather than in groups facing each other;

Windows and doors being left open to improve ventilation;

Separate entrances and exits with staggered times for different bubbles;

Separate sittings for lunch;

Regular and enhanced cleaning programme throughout the day – particularly in high-risk areas such as toilets;

Additional handwashing equipment and sanitiser dispensers across the school for regular use throughout the day;

Additional behaviour policies to encourage students understand their role in the new school environment;

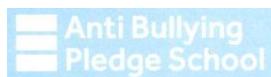
Clear Academy-wide strategies in the event of a local outbreak.

The government has now issued an update on guidance for face coverings:

“In.. local intervention (lockdown) areas, in education settings where Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As in the general approach, it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.”



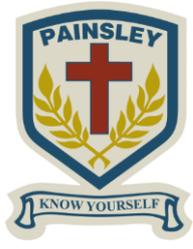
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Currently, Painsley Catholic College is not in a lockdown area. Additionally, we are fortunate to have a building that facilitates the separation of bubbles. Therefore, in line with government guidance, we will continue with our original approach to the use of face coverings ie students will be able to wear a suitable face covering to and from school. Sadly, there are some face coverings available with inappropriate logos etc. These will not be allowed to be worn to and from school. Face coverings should be removed as students enter the building. Students must wash their hands before and after removing their mask as per the government guidance (see below). Staff will supervise this process.

If the covering is disposable, lidded bins will be provided for their disposal. If the covering is not disposable, they will be required to bring a zipped plastic bag (or equivalent) to safely store their mask in.

Students should not wear face masks when in their designated bubble area (including classrooms and corridors) as the evidence shows that this might actually increase the risk of transmission. Students should avoid touching their faces as this increases transmission rates. Please read the guidance below carefully in order to understand the rationale for this decision.

If a student has a particular health issue, an individual risk assessment will be conducted with parents in order to assess whether a face covering is necessary at additional times.

Staff will be able to choose to wear face masks as they walk in corridors as they will be moving between bubbles. Staff will not wear face coverings in classrooms unless there are particular health issues or if they are working on a close 1:1 basis with a student.

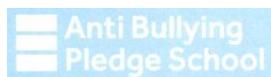
Government guidance on face coverings

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged



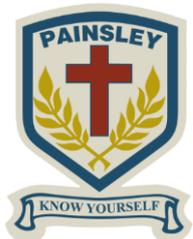
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When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

For further information from the government, please visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

We are very confident that our school environment is safe and we cannot wait to see the students and staff altogether again next Wednesday (2nd September)!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Waugh

Principal



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