

Face Masks Policy

SEPTEMBER 2020 – V1.1

THE BERWICK WAY

Work hard, with humility, diligence and attention to detail

ON TIME

ON SIDE

ON TASK



Face Masks Policy

Approved by:	Headteacher	Date:	25.09.20
Person Responsible:	Deputy Headteacher	Version:	1.1
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Contents

1. Introduction and aims	1
2. Wearing a face covering in school	2
3. Exemptions	2

1. Introduction and aims

At Berwick Academy we aim to create a safe and welcoming environment for all members of our school community. On 26th August, the government issued new guidance to schools which made the wearing of masks mandatory in secondary schools in areas of the country which have high rates of COVID-19 transmission. Subsequently, additional measures were put in place for the North East of England, which made the wearing of face coverings in schools mandatory in our region. Headteachers have also been given the flexibility to introduce face masks into schools, in those parts of the school site where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, for example in corridors and other communal spaces. The government states that face masks are not necessary in classrooms as other measures can be maintained and so that teaching and learning is not undermined.

We want to ensure that students and staff can continue to access school for teaching and learning, and protecting ourselves and each other by wearing a mask is a way that individuals can contribute to reducing the risk of virus infection and the threat of further closures of the school due to an outbreak.

In response to this guidance, we will introduce the following school expectations for staff and students from 25th September 2020:

- Staff and students will be expected to wear masks on arrival to school and then when moving between classrooms on corridors and in halls and communal areas at break and when queuing for food inside at lunch time.
- Staff and students will not be required to wear face masks in classrooms as other measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of infection, such as sanitisation, two metre zone between staff and students, and forward-facing seating.
- Staff and students will be expected to wear a black or dark mask, with no writing or logo on. To support students, a Berwick Academy mask has been provided to all students for free.
- Visitors to site remain an exception. Any visitor, including contractors, must wear a face covering when on site.

2. Wearing a face covering in school

2.1 Wearing a face covering

A face covering must:

- Cover the nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably.
- Fit comfortably but securely.
- Be washed and dried without causing the covering to be damaged.
- Be black or dark grey in colour with no logos or wording, other than the Berwick Academy logo on masks provided by the school.

When wearing a face covering you must:

- Remember to sanitise your hands regularly.
- 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.

Face coverings can be removed on entry to a classroom. At the end of the lesson, face coverings should be worn before leaving the classroom.

2.2 Face coverings in classrooms

Staff and students will not be required to wear face masks in classrooms as other measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of infection, such as sanitisation, two metre zone between staff and students, and forward-facing seating.

Should a student prefer to wear their mask in addition to the measures above during a lesson, this is permissible. However, a student must be prepared to remove their mask if requested by a member of staff as this request will be made for a specific reason.

2.3 Fire evacuation

In the case of fire or emergency evacuation of the building, students will be asked to wear their mask due to lining-up in close proximity to others at our muster points.

3. Exemptions

Some of our staff and students returning to school in September 2020 are clinically extremely vulnerable, or are living with family in this position, and we must therefore all play our part as a school community to protect each other as much as possible, as well as do all we can to ensure that the school remains open.

Some students/staff will have a medical exemption from wearing a face covering, as listed on the government's website. If this is the case, please contact school to inform staff in confidence of this and the reasons behind it. A medical exemption card will be provided to students where information supporting this has been provided by the parent/carer.