

Headteacher: Mr Ben Riggott

Parkside Community School
Boythorpe Avenue, Chesterfield
Derbyshire S40 2NS

Tel: 01246 273458

Email: info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk

Web: www.parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Changes to guidance on use of face coverings in school

As you will be aware, from 17 October Chesterfield has been identified as a tier 2 area of national government intervention. As such, the school's guidance on the use of face coverings will change with effect from Monday 19 October, in line with government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Students and staff should now wear a face covering in communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. This does not include classrooms. We are aware that a small number of students will be exempt from wearing a face covering. Please can parents and carers of any students who are exempt to contact us as soon as possible to provide us with details of this exemption, via info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk.

When should students wear a face covering?

- At top and bottom gate entrances – students should wear face coverings when they arrive in the morning and as they leave school in the afternoon, and whilst walking between entrances and classrooms.
- On corridors – face coverings should be worn whenever students are on corridors or staircases.
- When changing for PE – students should wear face coverings in the PE changing rooms at all times.

When would we not expect children to wear a face covering?

- When seated in lessons – students are not expected to wear face coverings whilst seated during their lessons. They will be reminded to put them on when preparing to leave classrooms.
- When eating or drinking in the canteen, school hall or other dedicated dining area – students will not be expected to wear face coverings when eating and drinking at break and lunchtime.

What about outdoors during social times?

When outdoors during social times, the risk of transmission is different to the risk of transmission in classrooms. In classrooms, children are seated facing forwards, and their behaviour and interaction follows highly structured routines. During social times, behaviour and interaction are different, with significant variations between individual students and groups of students. As such, students must ensure that they either maintain distance from other students, or wear a face covering if they are unable to or would prefer to do so. We will discuss this with students in some detail at school.

Please note that staff should wear face coverings in the same ways as students, and when working in shared spaces where it is difficult to maintain an appropriate distance.

Safe use of face coverings

It is best practice for individuals to:

- Clean hands before and after touching face coverings when putting them on and taking them off
- Not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it
- Store face coverings in small plastic ziplock bags between use
- Not wear a face covering if it becomes damp
- Dispose of temporary face coverings in a waste bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them to wash between uses

If you are unable to provide your child with a face covering, please ask them to contact the Parkside Support Centre. This should only be in exceptional circumstances. If you have any queries please contact us at school.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support with our efforts to keep our school community as safe as possible during these challenging times.

Take care, and best wishes

Ben Riggott

Headteacher