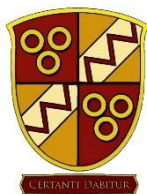


# The Oldershaw Academy

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Company Registration: 07652792

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Face Coverings in Schools

Since writing to parents and carers in July regarding our implementation of a range of measures to minimise the risk of COVID19 transmission in schools, the guidance on the use of face coverings in schools has now changed.

The Department for Education's *Face Coverings in Education* guidance states that:

"Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally...Schools and colleges will have discretion to require face coverings in communal area."

In response to this guidance, the Academy is making the wearing of face coverings for pupils and staff **optional** in communal areas outside of the classroom. Unless the government guidance changes, we will not be mandating the wearing of face coverings for any pupils or staff. Students using public transport will need to follow the guidance regarding masks.

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly and that children are aware of how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings properly in order to inadvertently increase the risks of transmission. If your child intends to wear a face covering in communal areas when they return to school, can I ask that you ensure that they are familiar with the guidance on how to use a face covering safely, available here: [Government Guidance - How to Use a Face Covering Safely](#). Furthermore, you must also ensure that your child has a resealable plastic bag to store their face covering in when not in use. Students must ensure they maintain good hand hygiene.

Please ensure that your child's face covering is plain in colour; pupils are not permitted to wear face masks which are patterned or carry logos / messages.

If you wish to discuss the wearing of face coverings further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Progress Leader or Assistant Progress Leader.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Bush  
Principal