

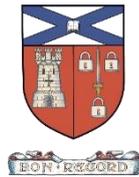
# Aberdeen Grammar School

## OUR VISION

Working together

Learning together

Achieving together



## OUR VALUES

Ambition

Growth

Success

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27 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **New National Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings**

Following an announcement by the Deputy First Minister on Tuesday 25 August 2020, there has been a change to the guidance for all staff, children and young people across Scotland regarding the use of face coverings in school. **Changes to the guidance will take effect from Monday 31 August.**

The new guidance states that adults and young people should wear a face covering when:

- moving around the school in corridors and in communal areas (including toilets), where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain
- travelling on dedicated school transport

At Aberdeen Grammar School, this will mean that face coverings should be worn by pupils on entering the school building; in corridors moving between classes; when out of class for any reason and in designated break and lunch areas. Clearly, face coverings do not require to be worn when eating and drinking in the canteen or assembly hall.

A reminder, too, that face coverings must be worn by pupils if they are in local shops during lunch break and when travelling on school transport to access PE facilities at Rubislaw.

The new advice states that face coverings are not required in classrooms and learning areas. However, as before, face coverings may be worn in classrooms by young people and teachers should they wish to do so. More specifically, the advice states that face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face to face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or young people. At AGS, in these instances, the class teacher may ask pupils to wear a face covering. Our young people have clearly understood the need for the safety measures we have put in place and I am sure they will support their class teacher, as and when required.

Staff and pupils should ensure they:

- bring their own face coverings to school;
- store these safely in a washable, sealable bag or container when not in use;

- wash reusable face coverings in hot water at the end of each day; and
- safely and hygienically dispose of disposable face coverings after use.

Please remember that a face covering can be as simple as a scarf, snood or other piece of cloth which covers the nose and mouth. Follow this link for information on [What is a Face Covering?](#)

We know that there are some adults and young people are exempt from wearing a face covering [Face Covering Exemptions](#). Please complete the attached [Google Face Covering Questionnaire](#) if:

- your child is exempt from wearing a face covering
- you require support in providing a face covering for your child

We know that there will be times when pupils will forget to bring their face covering to school. If this is the case, pupils will be provided with a disposable face covering for the day, as they enter the school building in the morning.

Pupils will be briefed on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings in line with Scottish Government guidelines <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-52606128>

Finally, I would like to commend our pupils on their responsible and safe behaviour. Our procedures for sanitising, wiping down work stations, the one way system and staggered break and lunch times are all working really well thanks to the responsible behaviour of our pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Further information on face coverings is available from the Scottish Government website:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-2/>

**Full face covering guidance is available via this link:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

Kindest regards

A. Murison

**Ms A Murison**  
Head Teacher