

27th August 2020

Returning Safely to School – Update

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are well at this time. Since my last letter dated 19th August, there has been further guidance from the DfE on wearing masks in school and greater flexibility for headteachers. As a result, I am writing to provide an update on the school's measures to ensure pupils and staff return safely in September.

1. **We would like all pupils to bring a mask to school**

Government guidance has changed recently from pupils and staff not being required to wear masks, to mandating them for schools in the event of a local lockdown. Although we are not currently in a local lockdown and so are not required to mandate masks in school, it seems that masks provide an additional layer of protection against the spread of the virus.

We therefore ask that all pupils and staff bring a mask to school for use in communal indoor areas such as corridors, between lessons or where the school feel it is appropriate to wear these in order to maximise the safety of our community.

2. **Pupils will not be required to wear a mask in lessons**

Pupils are being taught in bubbles with each year group having a designated zone in the school which only they will use, and playground space. They will also use separate entrances to the school in the morning and we will stagger exits for break and lunch.

In the main, teachers will move to classrooms rather than the pupils moving. Pupils will only need to change classroom in the following circumstances and will be asked to wear a mask when doing so:

- Moving within their zone as a result of their option or set
- Moving to another area of the school for specialist lessons like IT, PE or Science

Please get in touch asap if your child has a medical need that requires them to wear a mask in the classroom. Contact info@compass-schools.com.

3. **What types of mask are most effective and will be permitted?**

Face masks can be purchased in supermarkets, chemists and online and you can even make your own. While any face covering offers protection, some are more effective than others. Do your research ahead of your purchase, there is a lot of [guidance](#) to support you.



Face masks must:

- Be made for that specific purpose (not a scarf around the face).
- Have elastic ear loops
- Cover the nose and mouth only
- Be compliant with our school uniform: Plain without patterns or branding

The pictured examples above are approved, because they meet all the criteria above.

4. **How to use a mask?**

Pupils will have a full induction on our safety measures on their first day back. For this reason, they have separate starting times on Monday 7th September. Information will include the best way of wearing masks in order to maximise their effectiveness.

The Government has provided [guidance](#) on how to use masks. Click the link and scroll to [How to wear a face covering](#).

Reusable masks must be washed each evening so it is advisable that your child has more than one.

5. **How can you help?**

It is important that your child understands the steps we are taking to keep our school community safe and that we all need to do our bit for our own, as well as the greater public good. As parents and carers, you have an important role to play in ensuring your child comes to school well prepared for the new term.

Please ensure they understand the following:

- That things will be different and share the contents of my start of term letters with them
- They must have the right uniform and equipment including hairstyles and jewellery
- They must observe all measures we have put in place to keep them safe and that you will support the school with ensuring this

I will continue to keep you updated on any further developments. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy the remaining holiday and look forward welcoming your child back in September.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Huntley
Principal