

Use of Face Covering in Salford Schools and Settings

As stated in DFE guidance for full opening of schools in September <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak> , Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

However, LA guidance is that schools leaders should encourage all staff and pupils to follow the Department for Education and Public Health England advice. If having given this advice consideration, a member of your school community wishes to wear a face covering then this should be allowed, as long as the person is able to use it safely.

The advice below would be useful to share as appropriate.

Face Coverings

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- 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

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not share with someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

Disposing of face coverings:

- dispose of them in your 'black bag' waste bin at home or at work, or a litter bin if you're outside

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- do not put them in a recycling bin as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities
- take them home with you if there is no litter bin - do not drop them as litter
- if you or a member of your family is self- isolating double bag them and store them for 72 hours before putting them in a 'black bag' waste bin

More Information;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#maintaining-and-disposing-of-face-coverings>

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-disposing-of-waste?utm_source=9742866f-a0c4-4e00-ba29-43f523670856&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

If you require any further advice or assistance please contact phsecretary@salford.gov.uk