



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

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27 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, earlier this week, the government changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face masks in school. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated;

"Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.

In addition, the government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as listed on gov.uk, the government's guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning."

Our local area has an incredibly low rate of Covid 19 infection and transmission and as a school we have taken numerous precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in previous correspondence to you and available on the website. Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school at this time.

However, I absolutely recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and when socialising and I am happy for them to do so. Please note that masks must be plain black in appearance, no logos or motifs, and must be worn appropriately and sensibly. Any student intentionally misusing a mask will be required to take it off. Masks will not be worn in classrooms unless medical evidence is available. We have purchased a small number of washable black masks if required.

I will of course review this decision in light of any updated government guidance and any changes in the local situation.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Twist
Head teacher

