



## PARENT FACTSHEET

# Face coverings in schools: how to make it work

Here's what you and your child can expect now secondary pupils in North East Lincolnshire (Tier 2 lockdown) will need to wear a face covering when moving through shared areas at school

## When will my child need to wear a face covering at school?

Your child will need to wear a face covering:

- When travelling to and from school on public transport (nationally mandated).
- When sharing transport with members of your support bubble outside of the household and when social distancing is not possible
- When moving around the academy, in communal areas and in the dining areas
- When entering the academy building, first thing in the morning after hand sanitising by staff at the student entrance.

## Where exactly will my child need to wear it in school?

- They'll need to wear it when they move through shared indoor areas of the school where it's difficult to stick to social distancing. This includes corridors and communal areas including dining areas, meeting rooms, staff offices and breakout class spaces (e.g. for meeting external visitors).
- If your child travels to school by Stagecoach bus transport, or a transport service that only carries pupils.
- They **won't** need to wear a face covering outside or in their classroom.

## What will my child need?

Your child needs to come to school with:

- A **face covering**. We'd recommend a reusable one so that they can use it more than once, as they'll need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this isn't an option, they'll need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day. Their face covering should be secured to their head using ear loops only.
- Face coverings that sit around the neck are not recommended. Pupils will be allowed to remove the face covering during a lesson. This should be done completely i.e. not worn around the neck or draped from an ear.

- A **sealable plastic bag** to keep their face covering in when they're not using it so that it doesn't contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school. This can be used to store the face covering in during lessons.

## Where can I get a face covering?

- Reusable and single-use face coverings are available to buy in shops or online
- We've attached instructions from the government on how to make a cloth face covering
- Supervise your child if they'll be making it themselves

## How should my child use their face covering?

- Watch [this video](#) from the World Health Organisation with your child so they know how to wear their face covering safely. This video will be shared with tutors to watch during the first week of a lockdown tier change
- Their face covering needs to cover their nose and mouth when they're wearing it
- They shouldn't touch the front of the face covering or the part that's touched their mouth or nose when wearing it and when removing it
- They should wash their hands before and after touching the face covering, including to take it off or put it on. They should store it in an individual, sealable plastic bag between uses. Hand sanitizer is freely available in all areas of the school to support frequent mask wearing and removing during the school day
- If it becomes damp, they shouldn't wear it, and they should replace it carefully
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use (**not** in a recycling bin)

## How often will it need to be washed?

- Reusable face coverings will need to be washed at the end of each day, ready for your child to wear the next day
- You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent

## What if my child is exempt from wearing a face covering?

- They won't need to wear one in school
- Please let us know by contacting the school office by email, [office@beaconacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@beaconacademy.co.uk) if your child [is exempt](#) so that we don't ask them to wear a face covering and can communicate this point with all staff

## What about my younger child?

- This guidance on wearing face coverings doesn't apply to children under the age of 11

The school is now in the 2nd tier of lockdown in line with nationally mandated guidance which means that this request is now not optional. Beacon Academy staff will work closely with parents to support students to wear a face mask in line with the national guidance.

## **Sources**

This factsheet was produced with support from the following sources:

- [Face coverings in education](#), GOV.UK – DfE (see paragraph ‘Where local restrictions apply)
- [Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- [Guidance for full reopening](#), GOV.UK – DfE