

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### USE OF FACE COVERINGS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS

I write to explain Carmarthenshire County Council's position in regard to the use of face coverings on school transport and in our schools.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services and Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education issued a statement on face coverings in schools. Additional advice from the Technical Advisory Group was also published following its review of the use of face coverings. (<https://gov.wales/statement-face-coverings-schools>)

We have now had time to consider this advice and write to inform you of our position.

#### SCHOOL TRANSPORT

- The use of face coverings is **'required'** on all school transport.
- We will provide each pupil with a reusable face covering if they do not have a suitable covering. This will be issued by the school on the pupil's return in September.
- Pupils will be required to fill the rear most seats first on the vehicle for each journey and use the same seat on the return journey home.
- The seats behind the drive will be left empty.
- If a pupil turns up without a face covering, they will be permitted to travel to school. The school will provide the pupil with a *'disposable'* face covering for the return journey if they do not have access to a reusable face covering.
- Pupils with medical issues will be exempt from wearing face coverings on school transport.

We are encouraging the use of reusable face coverings where possible, rather than single use face coverings, as not only is this better for the environment but it will cost less.

#### USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOL

Based on school level risk assessments Headteachers and Local Authority Officers have agreed that-

- Pupils will need to keep their face coverings on when they leave school bus/enter school site until they get into their 1<sup>st</sup> classroom.
- Schools will, as far as possible, reduce pupil movement around school.
- Pupils and staff will be required to wear face coverings in **all indoor communal areas (not classrooms)** e.g. in corridors, queuing for lunches etc
- There might be local issues which will be communicated to you by your school.
- This position will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and any changes communicated to parents.

I also need to reiterate that the most important controls continue to be-

- Ensure that any staff member or learner who has symptoms or who is tested positive for COVID-19, or who has someone in their household who has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, does not attend the school setting
- Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Increased cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- Maintaining separate cohorts of students
- Avoiding close face to face conversations
- Careful 2m distancing between adults at all times, and adults maintaining 2m social distancing from children over 11 in the school setting.

I hope that you will support this decision and help reinforce this message on the use of face coverings with your children, along with the importance of social distancing and regular handwashing.

Yours sincerely,  
*Gareth Morgans*

**Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc**

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Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

You are welcome to contact me in Welsh or English