

Orchard School Bristol

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09 November 2020

Face Coverings at Orchard School

From Monday 9 November we require all students to be wearing face masks.

This follows government guidance 'Face coverings in Education' updated 5 November 2020, where "Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in indoor communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances."

We are taking this additional precautionary measure as transmission of the virus is high in the Bristol area and movement of staff and students in corridors means that people cannot maintain a safe distance from one another.

The World Health Organisation advise that "children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area."

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing masks. For example

- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability,
- if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.
- Medical exemption e.g. due to chronic asthma

Parents need to make these students known to their Head of Year/ Pastoral Manager, who will arrange for them to have a school-agreed exemption card, so it is clear to staff and students that the student is exempt.

