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**Education, Communities
and Economy**



Midlothian

Headteacher
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Face Coverings

Here is a useful video from the World Health Organisation - please go through this with your family.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-53877292>

As you will be aware face coverings will become mandatory in schools and school buses from Monday where social distancing is not possible and in identified busy places where year groups cross over.

Scottish Government advice states:

Face coverings should be worn in the following circumstances (except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering):

- “Where adults and young people in secondary schools (including special schools and independent and grant aided schools) are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain;
- In line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport.”

In short our pupils must wear face coverings (as is now Scottish Government Guidance) on the school bus all of the time, moving between classes/moving to and from break and lunch and in our local shops.

More detail on face coverings at Newbattle

Staff and pupils must wear face coverings when moving around the building at class period changeover including to and from break and lunches. Teachers will be asking pupils to put face coverings on **before** leaving the room for their next class or break/lunch after using hand sanitiser.

- We have 1100 masks on order which will arrive this week to cover the school and offer a new mask where needed.
- Students are responsible for having a face mask and for the cleanliness.
- Where a pupil due to health conditions cannot wear a mask, teachers have been asked to note this and check on our school tracking system for any medical notes that lesson. Our Pupil Support team will look at each case individually where necessary.
- Some pupils will not be able to wear a mask for health reasons. We will work with the pupils and families to support them where there is an issue. We all have a responsibility to show young people the correct way to put on and take off masks.
- There is a lesson in all students homeroom that will be shown on today, Friday and Monday.
- Pupils will not be required to wear masks once they arrive to indoor areas for break and lunch. The reason being that our indoor areas are spacious, allow for social distancing and are well ventilated.
- Masks are not mandatory for staff or pupils in the classroom. Pupils and staff should be allowed to wear a face covering over and above the Government guidance as they wish.
- Our whole school risk assessment will be updated to reflect the above.
- There may be particular activities and departments where we will also encourage the use of face masks for staff and pupils. We will communicate any particular arrangements to parents/carers, pupils and staff.

Attendance

Our attendance as a school shows a direct and supportive message from our parent/carers on trusting our school plans – thank you!

Initial analysis of our attendance shows that we hit 98% for our first week and continues to be strong.

We also thank you for the positive messages and supportive comments to help us progress subject areas through this e.g. implementing PE, HE and now music instruction again safely.

We have no doubt that our school community will rise to this new guidance and support each other in staying safe. We feel very fortunate to have such a strong community working together to make sure this return continues as well as it has.

Newbattle Senior Leadership Team