



References:

- A. Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance May 2021.
- B. 'Face coverings in Education' May 2021.

The Government has updated guidance reflecting the progress to Step 3 of the Government's roadmap as the threat from the pandemic recedes. Reference A provides guidance to schools on the use of face coverings in an educational setting and further guidance has been provided in Reference B. The protocol below sets out the use of face coverings by pupils to be adopted at St Mary's from 17 May 2021. Any pupil who does not adhere to this protocol will be sanctioned in line with the Rewards and Sanctions Policy.

**Pupils are required to wear face coverings:**

- When moving around the school buildings in corridors and stairs.
- When moving around the pupil or staff refectory unless sitting at a table eating a meal.
- When meeting with staff in staff offices unless specifically directed by the member of staff that it is not necessary.
- During house meetings or other large group meetings which involve more than one year group.
- When directed to do so by a member of staff.
- When visiting the school infirmary.

**Pupils need **not** wear face coverings:**

- When in a classroom attending a lesson with pupils from their own year group bubble.
- When attending a large group meeting or event when the pupils attending are all from the same bubble/year group such as morning Chapel, Mass, or a year group meeting or talk. Face coverings may be removed with the agreement of the member of staff in charge if year group bubbles are socially distanced.
- Within their own boarding areas (including the corridors, bathrooms and common rooms in the boarding areas) but should wear a face covering when moving through other boarding areas to access, for example, the Infirmary.
- When the fire alarm sounds and it is more important to make a swift and safe exit from the building.
- Outside.
- When playing sport unless otherwise directed by a member of staff.

**What is a face covering?** At St Mary's when pupils are required to wear a face covering it must be either a single-use or reusable face mask that securely covers the mouth and nose; a scarf or similar is not acceptable.

**Safe use of a face covering.** Pupils will be regularly reminded at chapel and on other occasions how to wear a face covering safely. This WHO video sets out how to wear a face mask safely:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN\\_WTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk)

Plastic bags for the safe storage of the mask are available from housekeeping and residential staff.

**Exemptions.** If any pupil has a medical or pastoral reason for not wearing a face covering then this should be agreed/endorsed by the school nurses (who will if necessary discuss this with the pupil's parents) and the Pastoral Deputy Headmistress informed.