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References:

- A. Schools COVID-19 operational guidance January 2022, available [here](#).
- B. St Mary's School Ascot Outbreak Management Plan.

The protocol below sets out the use of face coverings by pupils to be adopted at St Mary's from 9 January 2022. In January 2022 the Government required that pupils in Years 7 and above must wear face coverings in circulation spaces and classrooms and the St Mary's Face Covering Protocol has been updated accordingly, as shown below. 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:**

- In all circulation spaces when moving around the school buildings in corridors and stairs, but not in the boarding areas.
- In classrooms, except when wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.
- In all indoor assemblies such as Chapel, house meetings, year group meetings, tutor meetings, play and concerts.
- In the Pupil Refectory, unless seated and eating a meal.
- In the testing marquee.
- When meeting with staff in staff offices unless specifically directed by the member of staff that it is not necessary.
- When directed to do so by a member of staff.
- When visiting the school infirmary.
- When travelling on school transport including minibuses, taxis and the London bus.

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

- 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.
- Outside.
- When the fire alarm sounds and it is more important to make a swift and safe exit from the building.
- 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.