



## Use of face coverings in Brooke Weston Trust Schools

Dear Parents/Carers,

Earlier this week the government changed its policy on the use of face coverings in schools. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education> for more detail. The revised guidance includes the statement “Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures.” We have considered the government guidance carefully and adapted our procedures for schools accordingly. We hope you will agree we have tried to find a reasonable and balanced position. However, to ensure we cater for individual student or family circumstances that our general approach does not address, all BWT Principals have discretion to agree alternative arrangements on a case by case basis if necessary. We really want to work through this with you and we thank you for your cooperation in implementing this new system, which is intended to keep us all – students and staff – as safe as possible. Naturally, we will continue our dialogue with you and keep these arrangements under review, ready to make amendments if and where necessary.

### BWT face covering guidance for students with effect from September 2020

#### **Primary Schools**

Primary school children do not need to wear face coverings. Any parent wishing their child to do so should speak with the school directly to discuss their situation.

#### **Secondary Schools**

**Start of the day:** It will be mandatory for every student to be wearing a face covering on arrival at school and to keep this on until they are within their allocated year group bubble zone.

**During the day:** Students will not wear face coverings whilst in their bubble zone or during lessons. Senior leaders will keep any points of potential congestion in school under review. If required, they will stipulate when and where coverings must be worn by students and staff during the day. All such information will be communicated to students daily and clearly displayed on information screens in schools.

**End of the day:** It will be mandatory for every student to be wearing a face covering prior to exiting their year group bubble zone and leaving the building.

**Keeping face coverings clean:** All students should have a clean small plastic bag or container in which to keep their face covering when it is not being worn.

#### **Face coverings for secondary students to be supplied by BWT**

We are asking all secondary students to supply their own face covering in the first instance, but we are pleased to announce we will be giving every secondary student three reusable coverings free-of-charge. The model chosen meets the quality marks referred to in government guidance. They have been ordered and will be issued as soon as we receive them – hopefully within the next week or so. We request that students then wear these coverings once supplied. We will also focus on helping students develop good habits in looking after their face covering as set out below:

#### **When fitting a face covering:**

- if possible, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before fitting
- try to only handle the straps, ties or clips and avoid wearing on the neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with the mouth and nose
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you touch it a lot
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot of times in quick succession
- do not lend your face covering to anyone else

#### **When removing a face covering:**

- if single use, dispose of it carefully in a waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, place it in a clean bag/container kept solely for this purpose
- if possible, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

#### **When washing a face covering:**

- reusable coverings should be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

We hope you will understand that it must be each student’s personal responsibility to keep their own face covering clean and secure, because our staff will not be able to assist them or touch their face covering. Should doubt arise about a student’s ability to manage their face covering safely, the school will require a discussion with parents. If after reading this you have questions, please contact your school directly and they will endeavour to help.

Very best wishes for the term ahead.

Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive  
Brooke Weston Trust

The above advice is extracted from government guidance which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>