

## Face Coverings in Schools

### September 2020

The guidance from the government on education settings and face coverings was updated just before term started. The guidance is different for those areas where the transmission of the virus is high such as Oldham. Face coverings should now be worn by adults and pupils in our secondary schools and colleges when moving around in communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. Pupils who come to school via public transport or designated school transport are also required to wear face coverings.

Face coverings are not required in early years settings and primary schools. In particular, children under 3 should not wear a face covering at all as it is a suffocation risk. Face coverings should not be worn in the classroom as they may have a negative impact on learning and teaching.

If you have a child that is due to attend a secondary school or college, we would be grateful if you could ensure that they arrive each day with a face covering. Schools will have a small contingency supply for pupils and students who arrive without one, or whose face coverings become soiled.

Oldham's education settings have put in place a range of protective measures to ensure children remain safe. The wearing of face coverings by pupils and/or staff is only one part of these measures. Enhanced cleaning, minimising contact, and encouraging handwashing are some of the key measures that have been put in place.

We need your support to ensure that children and young people who wear face coverings do so safely and responsibly. We would be grateful if you could play your part by helping your child follow the below tips:

- 1 Hand hygiene and physical distancing remain really important, even when wearing a face covering.
- 2 Make sure that you distinguish between the front of the face covering and the inside. Do not touch the front of the face covering, or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with your mouth and nose.
- 3 Wash hands thoroughly immediately before and after putting on or taking off the face covering
- 4 Make sure the face covering fits comfortably so that you don't have to adjust it with your hands. Remember your face covering must cover your nose and mouth.
- 5 Keep your face covering for your own personal use. DO NOT share it with anyone else!
- 6 Do not remove your face covering to speak to people or to use your mobile phone.

- 7 Make sure you clean any surfaces the face covering has touched using normal household cleaning products. If eating in a café, for example, it is important that you do not place the face covering on the table.
- 8 Wash your face covering regularly and follow the washing instructions for the fabric. You can use your normal detergent. You can wash and dry it with other laundry. You must throw away your face covering if it is damaged.
- 9 If the face covering is single use, dispose of it in a waste bin. Do not put them in a recycling bin.
- 10 Once removed, store reusable face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them.