

St Monica's R.C. High School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday I wrote to you to share again the plans for pupils to return to school next week. As is often the case, further guidance was issued nationally to schools yesterday evening, and this was focussed on the use of masks in schools. The updated guidance now states:

“Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.

In addition, and consistent with WHO's new advice, the government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as listed on gov.uk, the government's guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning.”

This information is taken from the government link which you can find below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools>

As I am sure you are aware, Bury is currently an area of national government intervention. As such when your child returns to school next week, we will be following this guidance. Pupils will be asked to:

1. Come to school with an appropriate face covering.
2. Wear an appropriate face covering on the school buses.
3. Be expected to wear face coverings when they are moving around school, in corridors and other indoor communal areas.

Reasonable adjustments will of course be made for pupils who are exempt on medical grounds from wearing face coverings. We will fully brief pupils on the in-school protocols when they return to school next week, which we are very much looking forward to.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Foley

Headteacher

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