

28/08/20

Dear Parent / Guardian,

There has been much discussion around the use of face coverings in schools in Wales over the past week. It was the Welsh Government's decision for local authorities and schools to assess the risk according to the individual situation in each school. Having carried out a risk assessment at Bryn Tawe, the information below outlines our expectations for Bryn Tawe pupils in terms of wearing face coverings in school.

HIGH POPULATED AREAS:

- Pupils will be expected to wear face covering when travelling along **all corridors**, unless there is a medical reason that makes them exempt from doing so.
- Pupils will be expected to wear a face covering **when queuing to buy food** unless there is a medical reason that makes them exempt from doing so. Naturally, they can remove them after sitting in order to eat their lunch.
- Pupils will be expected to wear a cover if **travelling on dedicated school buses** unless there is a medical reason that makes them exempt from doing so. (See guidance for travel on dedicated school buses [here](#) for full details).

It is very important for pupils to understand that the use of face coverings in high populated areas is **one additional strategy** to reduce the risk of spreading the infection, not the only strategy. It is key that our pupils adhere to all the **individual health precautions**, which together help us to **reduce the risk of spreading the virus**:

- Frequent washing or sanitizing of hands (on arrival and departure from the school building; on entering and exiting each classroom; before and after eating; before and after using the toilet...).
- Maintain good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Carrying disposable tissues would be useful, but pupils will need to ensure that they dispose of them safely in a bin (or use their sleeves).
- Maintain social distance as much as possible.
- Follow the one-way system.
- Don't mix with pupils from other year groups.

In addition, we have ensured **specific arrangements** to support the above strategies to **reduce the risk of spreading the virus**:

- KS3 pupils moving at different times to KS4 and 5 pupils between lessons.
- We will ensure that we ventilate the building and rooms during the day.
- Staggering break and lunch periods.
- Specific areas for pupils of particular year groups for break and lunch - pupils will not be allowed to mix outside their year groups while at school or on the bus.
- Specific seating areas in the canteen for different year groups.
- Cleaning frequently, with pupils and teachers cleaning 'as they go'.
- The halls and seating areas in the canteen will be disinfected after use by pupils from a specific year group.



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Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



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We will remind the pupils of the above steps on a daily basis and ask you as parents to do the same, so that they develop into daily routines for all of our pupils as quickly as possible. This is the best way to protect each other in school.

Pupils will not be expected to wear face coverings on the yards, when eating their sandwiches in the hall, or in classrooms.

We have **specific precautions in the classrooms** to ensure safety, as maintaining a social distance will not be possible in all cases because of the numbers of pupils in the classroom (in line with Welsh Government and Swansea Local Authority guidance):

- Washing or sanitizing of hands on the way in and out of each room.
- Ventilation of all rooms.
- Pupils sitting facing the front.
- Siting alongside classmates and not facing them in lessons.
- Cleaning frequently, with pupils and teachers cleaning 'as they go'.
- Pupils to bring their own equipment - there will be no permission to share equipment.

WEARING AND REMOVING FACE COVERINGS:

Pupils will be expected to bring a personal face covering with them on a daily basis. If they bring a re-usable face covering, they are expected to be clean everyday and suitable for use in a school. We expect all parents to ensure this. Pupils must follow the advice below when removing and wearing a face covering:

- When placing it on and removing the face covering, pupils will have to wash or sanitize their hands every time.
- Pupils should not touch the front of the face covering whilst placing it on or removing it.
- A single-use face covering will need to be disposed of properly in a bin.
- 'Re-usable' face coverings will have to be placed in a plastic bag each time they are removed, and then pupils will need to wash their hands or sanitize again before entering into the classroom. We expect parents to provide their child with a plastic bag.

I assure you that we will continue to maintain a welcoming and warm ethos in the school and discuss the importance of all the actions we have adopted with our pupils. If there are medical reasons why a pupil cannot use a face covering, we will discuss these with you as parents. Our intention as a school is to welcome our pupils so that they can continue with their education in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your child returning, then please contact us to discuss, either at school or by e-mail: swyddfabryntawe5@hwbcymru.net .

Yours sincerely,





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