

Media Release

Date: 29th October 2021

Guidance for face coverings in education settings

Parents and carers are being advised of guidance in place for the wearing of face coverings in education settings when students return after half term.

Following discussions between Education and Public Health, it is strongly recommended that children and young people in Year 7 – Year 13 and staff in secondary schools and at the College of Further Education wear face coverings where physical distancing between **adults/pupils** in settings is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). As such it is recommended that students in secondary school and above bring a suitable face covering with them each day.

It is not expected that face coverings will be worn in classrooms or learning areas where there will be additional mitigation in place.

However, face coverings for students in Years 7 – 13 are required on school transport. Most young people will be able to wear their face-covering without difficulty for their bus journey. But if a young person does not have a face covering, or is unable to tolerate wearing one, please discuss this with the driver as no child should be prevented from travelling by bus for these reasons.

In primary schools and Early Years settings face coverings are strongly recommended in situations indoors where physical distancing between **adults** is not possible. If a child of primary school age wants to wear a face covering and can tolerate wearing one, then they are of course free to do so, but the strong recommendation is for adults only.

Parents and carers will receive this guidance direct through their child's setting.