

5 November 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing in response to the [updated guidance](#) for schools released by the government yesterday afternoon.

There are two key elements, the first is related to face coverings.

“In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.”

This guidance applies from Monday 9 November.

You will, through your children’s experience at Westfield Academy know that we are extremely rigorous in our Covid secure measures. You may not be aware of the extent to which this is in excess of that in place at most institutions, in part due to our large site with many sports pitches and fields.

Our response to this guidance will not therefore need to follow that of most schools, as we are consistently maintaining social distancing across the site.

As now, any student who wishes to wear a face covering may do so.

We will not however need to require that students in years 7, 8 and 9 wear face coverings.

- This is because these students are never in an internal communal space where social distancing is not possible.
- The class bubbles are released at different times and separated from other students.
- The students spend just a few seconds exiting the building in isolation and then spend their recreational time outside, able to make use of our [ventilated shelters](#) in inclement weather.
- The students enter the building in a similar fashion isolated from other students.
- The same arrangements are also in place when students in years 8 and 9 use the canteen spaces to purchase food, year 7 purchase their food outside from our [Pod](#).

It will be required that students in years 10 and 11 wear face coverings whilst inside any building, with the exception of when they are in their classrooms. Students will put on their face coverings at the end of a lesson prior to leaving their classroom and must not remove them until they are outside of the building.



This guidance will not of course apply to those students who are [exempt](#). We will expect all members of our community to be sensitive to this and respect those students who are exempt.

Students in years 10 and 11 are bubbled as year groups, therefore not coming into contact with any other students. However they do spend time inside, not socially distanced, with students in their year group with whom they do not also share a class. This is why they, in contrast to other year groups, will need to wear face coverings.

Students will not need to wear a face covering whilst actively eating or drinking in the library. This area has been set aside for them to use in inclement weather.

Our staff are able to maintain social distancing at all times due to our covid secure routines and arrangements and will not therefore need to routinely wear face coverings. We have staff on duty in internal spaces at breaks and lunches who will wear a face mask and all staff will carry a face mask in case there is a circumstance that arises that would require them not to socially distance themselves.

The second element of the updated guidance is relevant to “clinically extremely vulnerable” students.

“Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child’s GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.”

If this applies to your child, please contact Mr Mounsey, our attendance officer.

I would also wish to express my thanks to our parents and students who have engaged so well with Westfield’s procedures, enabling us to so successfully continue quality education and also keep our community safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Dallimore
Headteacher