

Friday 28th August 2020

To our Year 6 Parents,

I am writing in relation to the latest statement from Welsh Government, and advice from Flintshire County Council, with regards to the wearing of face coverings for pupils who are 11 years old. Flintshire County Council have allowed schools to have autonomy in the decisions they make regarding face coverings. As all of our Year 6 children will be reaching 11 years old during their final school year at Westwood, I would like to share our position on the advice before your child returns to school on Monday 7th September.

Wearing face coverings for children who are 11 years old at Westwood will be a choice made by you and your child; it is optional. At Westwood, we will not enforce the wearing of face coverings by children aged 11 as this is a personal choice/option/decision and the guidance in the link below will help you make that decision. Children below 11 years old are not expected to wear face coverings.

You must be aware, if the choice is made for your child to wear a face covering, certain additional health and safety processes will need to be implemented and followed strictly. Please ensure your child is aware of these processes below before they wear a face covering in school. Please take your time to read what we outline below and read carefully the guidance provided through the link at the bottom of the page which is attached for your convenience.

Wearing of Face Coverings by pupils aged 11 years and over at Westwood C.P.

- ✚ This is not mandatory, and it is based on parental choice. Clear guidelines for use/disposal with strict rules around face coverings set out by school are to be abided by.
- ✚ Parents/carers will provide the face covering for their child.
- ✚ The face covering must be appropriate for school and for the role it is meant to perform.
- ✚ Children must be shown by parents/carers how to put on/take off a face covering.
- ✚ Learners 11 and over who choose to wear a face covering will wear it entering the building, in and around school, in class and in corridors. The face covering may be removed when the child has exited the building but must be put back on before re-entry. The face covering will be kept in a named plastic zip bag when not in use.
- ✚ At lunchtime, the face covering would need to be placed into a sealed, named bag in the child's tray and its use resumed immediately after eating.
- ✚ During PE sessions, when children are involved in high intensity activities outdoors the face covering may make breathing difficult and therefore should be removed, placed into a sealed, named bag in the child's tray and its use resumed after the P.E. session.
- ✚ Children who cannot maintain appropriate and consistent use of their face covering will be instructed to place the face covering into a sealed bag in their tray until the end of the day to minimise risk to others.

In addition:

- ✚ Children must not, under any circumstances, share their face covering or use the face covering inappropriately.
- ✚ Where a reusable/disposable face covering is being used, a clean face covering must be worn each day.
- ✚ Face coverings worn in school should be for use in school only, being put on immediately before entering the school premises. Contaminated disposable face coverings will be disposed of in the double bagged tissue bins situated around the school. Fabric face coverings can be returned home in a zipped plastic bag they provide.
- ✚ Any disposable face coverings being used inappropriately or left on a surface will be put into contaminated waste immediately to minimise risk.
- ✚ Staff at Westwood C.P. cannot be responsible for ensuring a child who brings a face covering to school is wearing it.

<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-face-coverings-children-and-young-people-education-settings>

Please remember wearing face coverings for children who are 11 years old at Westwood will be a choice made by you and your child, and it is optional. Staff at Westwood will not enforce the wearing of face coverings by children aged 11; we respect the decisions you make for your child.

Please take your time to read and absorb the information we have provided; we look forward to seeing you again on Monday 7th September.

Mrs Williams 😊