



# St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP    www.spexe.org    (01392) 204 764    school@spexe.org

4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Update on Use of Face Coverings

I am very sorry that this information is being shared at such short notice but I am providing it as swiftly as possible with you.

Following an email received after school today from the Department for Education (DfE) I need to inform you of the need for all students and staff to wear face coverings in line with the following new government guidance.

**The Government have asked that these new rules are all complied with as soon as possible and no later than Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.**

- Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs. Please check the exemptions information using the following link if you think you fall into the exemption category. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>. Please inform your Head of Year if you think you qualify for an exemption and you will be supplied with a *school exemption card* if appropriate.
- Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.
- In addition, face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 and above when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This will include movement between lessons, to and from use of toilets and movement to and from break and lunchtime.

**All students and staff will be expected to wear their masks safely and bring their own face mask and have a suitable bag/storage facility for their mask in order to keep it safe.**

### What a face covering is

In the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. You can buy reusable or single-use face coverings. You may also use a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face.

Face coverings are not classified as [PPE \(personal protective equipment\)](#) which is used in a limited number of settings to protect wearers against hazards and risks, such as surgical masks or respirators used in medical and industrial settings.

Face coverings are instead largely intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of virus that causes coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

*'Life to the full for everyone.'*



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If you wish to find out more about the differences between surgical face masks, PPE face masks, and face coverings see the MHRA's (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) [regulatory status of equipment being used to help prevent coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

For information on how to wear a face mask please read the information below and also click on the following video link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN\\_WTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk)

## How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

We will of course continue to keep you informed as soon as we can of any changes. To clarify the Government have provided schools with this information after school today, with an expectation that all staff and students comply as soon as possible and no later than Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall  
Headteacher