

Face Coverings Policy at Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy

In order to be in line with the Compliance Code and our Risk assessment, this policy acts as an appendix to the staff handbook and must be read, understood and adhered to by all staff.

Face coverings - General

It is important to distinguish between different types of face coverings and their effectiveness. A multi-layer face covering (mask) is considered to be more effective than face visors or shields.

Multi-layer face coverings (masks) can also be split into single use (disposable) and reusable face coverings. It is important to understand that these different masks require different procedures for storage (see 'How to wear...').

Lastly, staff must be clear that even when a face covering is worn:

- All other measures that are in place to reduce the risk of transmission continue to apply
- It does not make it safe to go out in the community, attend school or work if you have COVID-19.

How to wear, store, put on and take off face coverings – Masks

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and after removing it
- Make sure it covers your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- When wearing a face covering, avoid touching your face or face covering
- Avoid wearing it around your neck or on your forehead between uses
- When you take your face covering off, be careful not to touch the front or inside of it, fold it in on itself and store safely in a bag between wears or before washing
- Change your face covering if it becomes damp, damaged or if you've touched it
- Change and wash reusable face coverings daily in line with manufacturer's instructions
- If it's not washable, dispose of it carefully in your usual waste
- Do not share your face covering with someone else.

Expectations on wearing face coverings at Thomas Bullock Primary Academy

*In adhering to the points below, it is important to understand that when we use the term 'social distancing' this applies to the **2m being maintained between adults to adults** not adults and children.*

1. You do not **have** to wear a face covering in your classroom as long as you are social distancing (alongside all other hygiene measures). However, if you wish to wear one, this is absolutely fine
2. When walking around communal areas, you must wear a face covering. This could be a visor if you can maintain social distancing, but **must** be a face mask if you cannot be 2m apart or are in close contact with another bubble or adult.
3. During meetings (including congregating at lunchtime) with other adults, if the room is ventilated and you can observe social distancing, you can be unmasked. All those present must agree to this. However, a shield is absolutely fine when you are at a two metre distance and working side-by-side
4. When working face-to-face even if distanced, please use a plastic guard, and face shield or mask.
5. If teaching in a different classroom to usual, staff **must** wear a face shield as well as employing our other safety measures including standing at the front and observing social distancing.
6. At pick-up and drop off please wear a mask. You may choose to wear a face mask and shield.