

Baldragon Academy

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27 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

New National Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings

Following an announcement by the Deputy First Minister on Tuesday 25 August 2020, the guidance for school staff and pupils across Scotland regarding the use of face coverings is changing.

The new guidance will take effect from Monday 31 August. It states that face coverings should be worn by staff and pupils when:

- adults and young people in secondary schools (including special schools) are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets), where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain;
- adults, young people and children aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport.

Staff and pupils should ensure they:

- **bring their own face coverings to school;**
- **store these safely in a washable, sealable bag or container when not in use;**
- **wash reusable face coverings in hot water at the end of each day; and**
- **safely and hygienically dispose of disposable face coverings after use.**

It is understood that some staff and children and young people cannot wear a face covering for good reasons and that position will be respected.

Therefore, this weekend we will be contacting all parents, via Groupcall Xpressions, to ask if your child is exempt from wearing a face covering due to a current medical condition. We also aim to ensure that the medical information which you have provided in the 2020/21 Annual Data Check, as held in our school's management information system (SEEMIS), remains accurate. Data Check forms were distributed for your completion and return to school at the start of this session. Pupils who are exempt will be given a discrete 'pass' which they can show to school staff.

Please remember that a face covering can be as simple as a scarf, snood or other piece of cloth which covers the nose and mouth. At Baldragon Academy, we will spend time during period 1 on Monday 31 August teaching your child about these new guidelines. This will include a safety presentation. We also have a very limited provision of basic equipment to help your child make their own reusable face covering should they not have one with them. To do this, we will be following the Scottish Government tutorial which you can follow here <https://youtu.be/5RctqmSo2tU>.

Further information on face coverings is available from the Scottish Government website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-2/>.

Full face covering guidance is available via this link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>.

Please stay safe and thank you for your ongoing support.

H McAninch
Headteacher