



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following the Government announcement on Wednesday 4th November 2020, I am obliged to inform you that the wearing of face masks and coverings in secondary school settings is mandatory as of Monday, 9th November 2020.

Students and staff **MUST** wear face coverings in all indoor communal areas such as corridors, when moving around school, in social spaces such as the Dining Hall, in queues and in other situations where they are not able to socially distance. This is for the safety of all. Students are not required to wear face coverings during lessons or whilst eating or drinking in their dining area.

The specific guidance from Government is as follows:

In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated and further education colleges, 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. Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary schools or on public transport to college.

Exemptions:

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

Should your child have a recognised condition which prevents them from wearing a face covering, please contact Mrs Pollitt, SENCO, at spollitt@darwenvale.com as soon as possible regarding this.

We recommend a reusable face covering so your child can use it more than once, as they will need to take it on and off several times during the school day. Their face covering should be secured to your child's head using ear loops only. It should not be scarf or full face covering (i.e. a balaclava) and must be appropriate for a school setting. No inappropriate slogans or writing: plain is best, please.

We have a supply of single use disposable masks on site if you are unable to source one before next week. However, as you can appreciate, we are not able to provide face coverings daily, for all students, therefore we will be keeping a record of students who have been given them and may have to consider whether there is charge for those students who repeatedly forget theirs. We are also in the process, as a school, of looking to supply washable black approved face coverings which the students will be able to purchase. We will provide more information regarding this soon.

Darwen Vale High School, Blackburn Road, Darwen, BB3 0AL | Tel: 01254 223000 |

Darwen Vale High School is a member of the Aldridge Education family of schools.
Aldridge Education is registered in England & Wales number 05670663
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I have included some guidance on mask safety. Please talk this through with your child to alleviate any concerns they may have and help us to help them understand why this is necessary- even if it may not be a decision you yourself are comfortable with.

How should my child use their face covering?

- Their face covering needs to cover their nose and mouth when they're wearing it
- They shouldn't touch the front of the face covering or the part that's touched their mouth or nose
- If possible, they should store it in an individual, sealable plastic bag between uses. If it becomes damp, they shouldn't wear it, and they should replace it carefully.
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of after use (not in a recycling bin)

How often will it need to be washed?

- Reusable face coverings will need to be washed at the end of each day, ready for your child to wear the next day
- You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent
- The single-use face coverings are not intended for repeated use and therefore should be disposed of and your child should wear a new one the next day.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions, please get in touch at contact@darwenvale.com

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Little
Principal