



17 September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Face coverings in school

As you are no doubt aware, this afternoon the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that the seven north east local authorities, including Northumberland, would be enabled to implement tighter restrictions to limit local rates of transmission of the coronavirus. Following this announcement, the seven authority chief executives, under guidance from their directors of public health, issued [responses](#) to questions about the new arrangements. Within these responses, they specified that, for year 7 pupils upwards, face coverings should now be worn when moving around in corridors and communal areas. As a result, with effect from tomorrow, we will be implementing this requirement for staff, visitors and pupils in years 7 and 8. Pupils in years 5 and 6 will not have to wear a covering but can do so if they wish.

I appreciate that this is short notice. However, I know that many of our pupils will already possess a face covering and therefore ask that this is brought into school tomorrow along with a small resealable bag to keep it in when not in use. If your child doesn't have a covering or forgets to bring it, we will provide him or her with a disposable mask via their form tutor. Tutors will talk through the expectations around when, where and how coverings should be worn. To support safe use, it would be helpful if your child could bring hand sanitiser with them, although this will still be readily available in classrooms and around school.

I am aware that some children are not able to wear a covering for health reasons and will therefore be exempt from this requirement. If this applies to your son or daughter, please contact admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher