

**Mearns Academy**

Aberdeen Road

Laurencekirk AB30 1ZJ

Telephone 01561 400700

mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

www.mearns.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Date: 27 August 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in schools has now been issued by the Scottish Government.

**Scottish Government Guidance States:**

From Monday 31 August Scottish Government guidance is as follows:

* All adults and pupils in secondary schools should wear a face covering when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas, where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.
* All children aged 5 and over should wear a face covering on dedicated school transport. This is in line with guidance for public transport.  All children and young people who travel by school transport will be expected to wear a face covering from Monday 31 August.

**Education Scotland Guidance States:**

The Scottish Government recommends all secondary school pupils in Scotland wear a face covering from Monday 31st August at certain times when moving around the school.

* When moving in corridors and around school
* At breaks and lunchtime in school
* In communal areas where there are large crowds of different age groups
* On any transport provided by Aberdeenshire Council

There are very good medical reasons why some children are unable to wear a face covering.  We ask that you advise the school if your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, details of those who are exempt are available in the linked national guidance.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/#:~:text=People%20must%20by%20law%20wear,unless%20in%20a%20crowded%20situation>.

**Please advise us by emailing**: mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

If you are unable to provide a face covering for Monday we ask that you let us know by emailing mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk so that we can help your family prepare for this change.

It would be helpful if you could discuss these changes with your young person and talk through how to wear and dispose of face coverings.  Two short clips are linked which you may find helpful:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-52606128>  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk>

We will also brief pupils on the use of face coverings.

Thank you in advance for your support.

  Yours sincerely

**Gareth Campbell**

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**Head Teacher**

**Mearns Academy**