

Headteacher Mr S. Richardson

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Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent

Face Coverings

Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday 25th August the Government updated its guidance to schools on face coverings. You can read the [full guidance](#) on the DfE website. However, I would draw attention to the passage that states:

‘Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.’

Our position up to this point has been that students are free to choose whether they wear a face covering. In light of the guidance, this continues to be our position. Students may choose to wear a face covering voluntarily if it provides them with additional reassurance. However, we are not, at this stage, making masks compulsory.

The situation will be kept under review.

Students who choose to wear a mask must follow these guidelines:

- Masks may only be worn in communal areas and not in classrooms.
- The mask must be a plain, single colour mask without images, logos or slogans.
- It must cover the nose and mouth.
- If it is removed for any reason it must be immediately stored in the student’s bag.
- Masks must be cleaned regularly.

We will spend some time talking to students about safe use of face coverings when they return to the Academy from next week. Hopefully, this decision gives parents the flexibility to make a decision that is right for their child.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Richardson'.

Mr S. Richardson
Headteacher