



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr D. Waugh

To Parents, Carers and Students of Poynton High School

Ref: **Facemasks to be worn in school**

(Update issued on 1st September 2020; to be reviewed on 14th September 2020)

Face Masks Government Update

The following advice has been received from government for each individual school to consider and to make a local decision in regard to the possible wearing of face masks, "...the World Health Organisation now advise that children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area. As a result, the government has revised the guidance on face coverings for staff and children in Year 7 or above in England.

From 1st September new advice will apply to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils in school years 7 or above and learners in further education in England; in areas of local intervention, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools and colleges when moving around, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Face Masks Poynton High School Update

Poynton High School is not situated in a 'local lock down area' however it is on the border of an area which has recently been subject to additional restrictions. Alongside this, over 25% of our student population are resident within the Greater Manchester area and therefore have been directly subject to the recent local restrictions.

Within this context and putting this alongside the fact that we are all returning to a much more integrated community than previously experienced over the last 6 months, we have decided that in order to further support our extensive measures to keep our students and staff safe, the following rules will apply to both students and staff. These rules will be reassessed on a fortnightly basis and updates communicated accordingly.

- **Face masks will be compulsory in all internal communal spaces**, e.g. corridors, restaurant, toilets, etc. This will apply even if a student or a member of staff is transferring between one room and the room next door.
- **Face masks will be compulsory when queuing at food service points** (both inside and outside of the school buildings)
- **Face masks are compulsory on all school transport**, whether or not that is a school bus or public service bus.
- **Face coverings must be plain in design**. Patterned face masks are permitted however masks with logos/branding/words or inappropriate designs will not be allowed. This is entirely and exclusively at the discretion of the head teacher and if a mask is deemed inappropriate then removal will be compulsory and a plain medical grade mask will be provided.

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541
Email: info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk



Further guidance:

- Face masks (and face shields for staff) will be optional within classrooms.
- Face masks will be optional in external social spaces apart from when queuing for food service points.
- If a face covering is deemed to be inappropriate we will supply the student/member of staff with an alternative face covering. If the student refuses to change their face covering, or does not wear their covering, this will be judged as a breach in our behaviour code and will be treated as such with an appropriate correction.
- Staff will be allowed to wear appropriate PPE as they see fit for their role, including face mask, gloves, face shields, etc.
- If there are any medical reasons which prevent you from adhering to these rules please liaise directly with Miss Holyland and Mrs Warburton via e-mail at info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr David Waugh
Head Teacher

