

12th May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you following Boris Johnson's recent announcement on risk and masks in schools.

We have carefully considered our school risk assessments in line with Government guidance published on 10th May, and our own school circumstances.

Taking into account the feedback we have had from staff and students about wearing masks, we have decided to make the wearing of masks in classrooms, corridors and communal areas **optional for all students** with effect from 17th May 2021. This is intended to ensure that those who feel they wish to continue to wear a mask can do so. Staff will support students who wish to wear a mask and may to continue to wear masks themselves in classrooms if they want to.

Students must continue to wear masks when travelling on buses and in taxis on their way to and from school, in line with national guidance.

It is important to reiterate the existing risk mitigation that we have in place and that will not change. The key elements of reducing covid risks we are focusing on in school are:

- Social distancing - we encourage students to keep their distance from one another and staff, and have classrooms set up to maximise the distance between students.
- Bubbles - we operate a successful bubble system to ensure that groups of children in different year groups do not mix in school either during lessons or at breaks / lunchtimes.
- Regular hand washing - we have sanitiser stations in every classroom and at every entrance door, and encourage regular washing of hands with soap and water at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Regular cleaning - we have enhanced our cleaning regime to ensure frequently touched surfaces are cleaned more often.
- Ventilation - we have windows open in classrooms during and between lessons, ensuring a flow of clean, fresh air at all times.
- Reducing the number of visitors to school to reduce the risk to our staff and students.

Of course we will continue to be guided by national and local guidelines and will reflect any changes to the guidance we receive and as circumstances change in our risk assessments and the actions we take to protect our students and staff.

Thank you for your support in ensuring we remain as safe as we can be. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Executive Headteacher

Headteacher: Judith Schafer B.A. Oxon, PGDE, SQH
Beacon Hill Community School, Market Square, Aspatria, CA7 3EZ
Solway Community School, Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD
016973 31234
016973 20509