



Dear Parent/Guardian

Wearing of face coverings at school (secondary)

Message on behalf of Jeremy Miles AM – Wales Government Minister for Education and Welsh Language - **November 30th 2021**

“The emergence of this new Covid 19 variant is a serious development requiring decisions to be made quickly. We are now introducing an additional measure, while we learn more about this new strain. All staff and learners in our secondary schools and colleges should now wear face coverings while indoors including in classrooms where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

This is a temporary, precautionary measure that will be in place for the remaining weeks of term at which point the position will be reviewed. This should come into effect as soon as possible. There will be some learners and staff who are exempt from wearing face-coverings and we do not expect this to change that position as the well-being of individuals is critical to any considerations around whether staff or learners should wear face coverings.

Throughout the pandemic the Welsh Government’s priority has been to maximise learning and to minimise disruption for our young people. With three weeks left of term, I’m sure you will agree with me that it is vital that we ensure that learning can continue for as many learners as possible”

As you will be aware, the use of face coverings at Whitmore is an existing COVID-19 control but this more enhanced use of face coverings should now include classroom/learning spaces as well as communal areas such the queues in canteens. We will start the enhanced controls on Friday 3rd December and inform pupils in form time tomorrow.

Should there be a specific medical reason as to why your child cannot wear a face covering, we would be grateful if you could contact the school to enable us to discuss the situation.

Please see link for current Government guidance for self-isolation - [Self-isolation | GOV.WALES](#)

Thank you for your help in doing all we can – together - to keep ourselves and others safe.

Kind regards

Innes Robinson