

Sunday 6th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to notify you of some updated guidance from the Director of Population Health relating to the use of face masks in school; I have just received the following:

“Dear Headteacher,

Previously we wrote to you to advise that all secondary schools and colleges in Tameside should consider advising pupils and staff to continue to wear face coverings in school should they wish to, as they can reduce COVID-19 transmission. Since then, you will be aware of the increase of the ‘Delta’ Variant of Concern (previously referred to as the variant first detected in India) and the increase in case rates across Greater Manchester, and now in Tameside.

As a result of the deteriorating situation, I recommend the continued use of face coverings for all pupils and staff in school until the end of the school term, as part of your robust system of control of covid-19 transmission. This measure is particularly recommended for areas where social distancing may be difficult, such as all communal areas.

Consideration of promoting the wearing of face coverings is only one part of your larger system of controls. Other measures, including social distancing, staff vaccination (for those eligible), handwashing, regular and symptomatic testing, contact tracing, self-isolation, good ventilation and enhanced cleaning remain essential. Support on any of these matters continues to be available from your public health and education teams.

Kind Regards

Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy

Director of Population Health”

I must therefore ask that all pupils (other than those who are medically exempt) bring a plain face mask for school on Monday; pupils will be expected to wear masks throughout the school day until further notice. I will review the situation every two weeks as guidance is changing quite frequently at the moment.

As I said in my newsletter last week, we were looking forward to being mask-free however, the safety of our staff, pupils and wider community remains our priority.

Thank you so much for your understanding and your support in this matter.

Best wishes, keep safe!



Andrea Radcliffe

Headteacher