

Policy Statement

Face coverings in education settings

On 21 October 2021, Public Health announced that the use of face coverings was strongly recommended where physical distancing is not possible, where there is poor ventilation where there are close crowds, or where individuals need to work in very close proximity with colleagues, service users or customers. More information is available [here](#).

Given the ongoing rise in case numbers in the community and in order to protect our staff and students in the run up to Christmas, the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture has agreed that from Tuesday 30 November 2021, face coverings must be worn by all staff and secondary and post 16 students in communal areas where the Public Health recommendation applies.

This means that:

- Children and young people in Year 7 – Year 13 and staff in secondary schools and at the College of Further Education must wear face coverings in settings where physical distancing between **adults/students and between students** is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). It is not expected that face coverings will be worn in classrooms.
- In primary schools in situations indoors where physical distancing between **adults** in settings is not possible, staff must wear a face covering. If a child of primary school age wants to wear a face covering and can tolerate wearing one, then they should be supported to do so.
- In SEND schools and settings face coverings will be worn by staff and students when and where possible.
- Face coverings for students in Years 7 – 13 will be required on school transport. Most children will be able to wear their face covering without difficulty for their bus journey. However, no child should be prevented from travelling by bus because they do not have/are unable to tolerate wearing a face covering.

Settings leaders will use best endeavours to ensure students comply with this new policy position. For those unable to wear a face covering, lanyards and exemption cards are available. More information is available [here](#).

The following should be noted:

- School activities such as year group assemblies can continue in well ventilated spaces where students and staff can distance.
- Visitors onto school premises must wear a face covering, this includes pick up and drop offs, parents' evenings and school events. Staff on school reception desks should also wear a mask if they are dealing with visitors. Settings should

ensure that a supply of face coverings is available for those visitors who arrive without one.