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# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: [info@cooperscoborn.org.uk](mailto:info@cooperscoborn.org.uk) | Website: [www.cooperscoborn.org.uk](http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk) |

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Re: Face coverings: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening, I am pleased to confirm that from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May students will no longer be required to wear face coverings whilst on the school site; this includes all areas of the school site such as classrooms and communal areas, both inside and out.

I know how difficult this issue has been for many students and their families and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for showing such perseverance by wearing a face covering for many months.

In particular I wanted to reiterate that this decision also extends to students in Year 13 who are sitting 'Centralised Standardised Assessments' (CSAs) in the coming two weeks. Students are not required to wear a face covering whilst completing assessments.

If your son/daughter still wishes to wear a face covering whilst on the school site then this is a personal choice and of course this will be respected. Similarly, please be aware that some staff may choose to continue wearing a face covering either on a temporary or permanent basis; once again this decision will be respected. In particular, it is recommended for staff to wear a face covering where social distancing cannot be adequately maintained.

We continue to remain vigilant as a school community regarding the risks associated with COVID-19 and all other aspects of our risk assessment and systems of control, remain in place:

- Students must regularly sanitise their hands, especially on arrival to school and upon entry to every lesson they attend
- They must remain in their year group 'bubble' at all times
- They should observe the one-way system
- They should remain as socially distanced from others as possible
- They should consistently sit in the seat identified on the teacher's seating plan
- Students are not permitted to use mobile phones or their own headphones at any point on the school site

All of these important points are contained in our School Behaviour Policy and the document we refer to as 'The Coopers' Coborn Charter'. Both of these documents and the School Uniform Policy will be updated to reflect the change in guidance on face coverings.



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We are sure, at this stage, you are extremely well-versed in the regulations surrounding COVID symptoms, but as a reminder; your son/daughter should not attend school if they:

- Have a new, continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of taste or smell

In these instances, they (and the wider household) must self-isolate pending the result of a PCR self-test.

May I remind you that it remains imperative that **all students continue to keep up with their lateral flow testing every Wednesday and Sunday**. We are expecting a delivery of more tests which will shortly be handed out to all students.

If your son/daughter tests positive for COVID-19, please contact us on our dedicated COVID-19 line. The number is: 07966 236607, not the school absence line.

The school will continue to be required to undertake 'Track and Trace' if a member of the school community tests positive with COVID-19. In this instance, we will be required to identify 'proximity contacts' and those contacts will be required to self-isolate for 10 days. Unfortunately, this applies to students even if they have previously tested positive for COVID-19, or have been vaccinated. We are extremely hopeful that we will continue to see a significant reduction in the number of students who are required to self-isolate.

Whilst the school will no longer require face coverings on the school site, it is important that I remind you that they are still required if your son/daughter uses public transport to come to school. Similarly, I am sure you are aware that they are required in retail and hospitality venues.

We can only hope that this is the first step of many on the path towards greater normality for our school community.

Yours sincerely

**Ms S Hay**  
**Headteacher**