

01 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### Face Coverings in Secondary Schools

I am sure that over the last few days you have seen the news that nationally cases of COVID-19 across the country are rising. This is expected due to the Delta variant however we need to carefully consider what action we should take to help contain and reduce transmission.

At Outwood Academy City we have worked closely with Public Health Sheffield and will always follow their guidance in order to best protect our community. Today, **Greg Fell from Public Health Sheffield** has provided the following guidance to all schools in Sheffield:

‘As cases increase we want to make sure we are doing all we can to protect all in our wider community including those not yet vaccinated and also avoid increasing cases as the end of term approaches. We want to take action to reduce disruption to learning across schools from positive cases, to stop people being unwell and to not have high numbers of pupils/staff having to isolate at the start of the school holidays.

### Face Coverings in Secondary Schools

Given the increase in cases across secondary schools I am also recommending that we move back to the position we were in a few months ago where face coverings are recommended in secondary schools. I am recommending that face coverings are worn in classrooms and communal areas until the end of the school term – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 as detailed below:

It is recommended that face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils:

- when moving around the premises
- outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises.
- should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.
- Wearers should be mindful that in a situation where they are likely to not be able to maintain distance consistently they should keep their face covering on rather than putting it on and taking it off repeatedly. For example, if a child is sat next to another child in class but moves away to get a piece of equipment, they should keep their face covering on.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Downing  
Principal