



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

Wednesday 2nd September

RE: Wearing of face coverings in school

Dear parents/carers,

The staff at BDA have been making the final arrangements and preparations for students to arrive back in school from Monday, we are very much looking forward to seeing them all.

As you may be aware the government has released guidance recently on the use of face masks in school.

As a senior leadership team and with the Ark central team we have reviewed this guidance and have determined that it will operate in the following way across the school:

- Face coverings are not recommended for primary school pupils
- If parents of primary aged children strongly feel their children should wear face coverings this will be allowed. However, staff will not be able to assist with the correct usage of the face covering. If you would like your child to wear a mask in Primary, please email the school so we can expect your child to be wearing a mask.
- All secondary students should wear face coverings when moving around the school, transitioning between lessons and during unstructured time inside the building when social distancing might be difficult to maintain.
- Secondary students should not wear a mask whilst eating in the canteen but should wear a mask whilst queuing to buy food or moving around the canteen.
- Masks are not required to be worn in the playground or external spaces.
- If your child is exempt from wearing face coverings in other settings they do not need to wear these at any time.
- It is not recommended that pupils should wear face coverings whilst in classrooms, but if there is a specific health reason or a strong parental preference these will be permitted at the Principal's discretion. If you would like your child to wear a face covering in lessons please email the school directly for the attention of the Principal.
- Face coverings should be plain black or dark blue reusable face covering with no logos or other markings.
- Ideally if students are using public transport they should wear a different mask in school to the one they have used on public transport. We would urge as many students as possible to walk to school.

I appreciate that this is a difficult time for parents and students. We have spent much of the summer ensuring that the school site and the logistics around the school day have been prepared to ensure that students are as safe as possible.

I would like to thank you for your support on the above issue.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bhatia
Principal

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