

Schools reopening and supporting information on use of face coverings

North West Schools Task Force – 16th Feb 2021

The UK government website contains comprehensive information on use of [face coverings](#).

Below is a summary of some good practice on use of face covering which contains additional information the CDC and WHO websites.

How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- *cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably*
- *fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face*
- *be secured to the head with ties or ear loops*
- *be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton*
- *ideally include at least 2 layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends 3, depending on the fabric used)*
- *unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged*
- *Don't use masks with valves. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>*

When wearing a face covering you should:

- *wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on*
- *avoid wearing on your neck or forehead*
- *avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus*
- *change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you have touched it*
- *avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession*

When removing a face covering:

- *wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing*
- *only handle the straps, ties or clips*
- *do not give it to someone else to use*
- *if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle*
- *if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric*
- *wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed*
- *Keep a spare mask to replace one that becomes wet from moisture in your breath, snow, or rain*.*
- *Store used reusable masks in a plastic bag until they can be washed*.*

**<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>*