

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government today published further guidance relating to schools in the current circumstances. This guidance, much of which is similar to that published in July, can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/scientific-and-public-health-advice/>

Although there are a number of points in the guidance issued today that will support schools as we move forward, a significant change is that relating to face coverings in school. As Falkirk Council has been designated a Level 3 area for Enhanced Protection by the Scottish Government, **all staff and pupils should wear a face covering in classrooms during lessons in the senior phase. This applies to pupils in S4, S5 and S6.**

This guidance is in addition to the current position on face coverings in schools. As a reminder of this guidance:

Anyone (whether child, young person or adult) wishing to wear a face covering in any part of the school should be permitted to do so.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. Further information on exemptions can be found in wider Scottish Government guidance.

Face coverings should be worn in the following circumstances (except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering):

- *at all times when adults and young people are moving around the school in corridors, office and admin areas, canteens (except when dining) and other communal areas, including toilets*
- *on school transport*

As ever, we will keep you updated on any other developments that may arise. In the meantime I hope you and your family have a pleasant weekend and we look forward to seeing our young people back in school next week.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone