



1st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you back in July to update you on the reopening of Halewood Academy and the safety measures we are putting in place. In preparation for full reopening of all schools, and following the current official guidance the School's Senior Leadership Team, Trust and the Health and Safety advisors have spent considerable time planning for the safe return of all pupils and staff to full-time education in September. Following discussion of our risk assessments and reopening plans, a number of precautionary measures have been implemented on the site and we are following official Government guidance supplied to schools.

As part of our decision-making process, we are recommending the wearing of face masks in and around the school except in classrooms. The wearing of face masks in and around the school is a voluntary measure however, we hope that our school community will support the decisions we have taken.

The guidance and protocol (below) provide further details on the appropriate use of face masks in schools and is designed to ensure the safe operation of the School and to protect all members of our community, particularly those who are vulnerable. These precautions take account of the nature of the school site and our large pupil and staff population.

We hope that these health and safety measures will ensure that Halewood Academy can continue to operate as normal a service as possible. The health and well-being of our school community is of paramount importance. Schools are an essential part of society and the arrangements we are making are designed to ensure we are in a position to welcome all pupils and staff back to school.

We are confident that you as parents and carers, our students and staff will fully understand that these measures are designed to provide the best care, not just for those in school, but also for our families and this initiative will therefore be supported with the same community spirit which typifies the attitude of those in this school. The school will continue to monitor any changes to guidance and review the implementation process in school.

Yours faithfully

Ms J Gallagher
Interim Principal

Protocol for the use of face masks – Secondary Setting

The school will continue to monitor the relevant official guidance on this matter and will keep you updated when any changes to this protocol are made.

In circulation spaces and public areas where it is more difficult to maintain social distancing, the use of face masks is recommended for staff, students and visitors. We hope that our whole school community will support us in this action.

We have provided, as far as is reasonably possible, the ability for staff to socially distance in each classroom, therefore we would request that face masks are not worn in a classroom setting unless specific risk assessments are required (for both staff or students) or a specific change in circumstances results in a request to wear a face mask being made.

It is the responsibility of the member of staff and student to bring a face mask/s onto site should they wish to make use of them outside of the classroom.

Only washable or disposable face masks will be allowed. We would recommend that washable reusable face masks are used and ideally, they should be plain in colour.

The school will maintain a stock of face visors, face masks and relevant PPE in school for use where these are required for staff; the school will provide details on this in relation to their setting. The school always expects all its behaviour protocols to be followed by all students.

Wearing and disposal of a facemask

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth always and store used, re-useable face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them. Avoid touching the facemask or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with your mouth and nose.

Used facemasks must be kept in a separate sealable bag so this does not risk cross contamination with your clean mask and disposed of at home there will be a small option for a suitable lidded receptacle in school in the event of an emergency. Where possible to continue to use hand sanitiser or wash your hands before and after using your mask.

Operation on Site

Any student or staff member who does not currently require a risk assessment in relation to return to school but remains anxious in relation to facemasks should make their form tutor or line manager aware and we will seek to advise.

The school will provide poster information at the entrance and exit of all buildings advising all staff and visitors to clean their hands before putting on and after removing their mask using the hand sanitiser provided at the entrance/ exit of the building.

Students will be made aware of this protocol and changes to the Behaviour Policy and these will be updated on school websites.