



3 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings - DfE Guidance Update - Sunday 2nd January

I hope you have had a safe, healthy and happy Christmas break.

In advance of welcoming your child back to school on **Wednesday 5 January**, I wanted to inform you of some [changes to the guidance from](#) the Department for Education concerning the management of COVID in schools issued yesterday, Sunday 2 January.

“From Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. We are updating our guidance to reflect this. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.”

Therefore, I would like to ask you to ensure that your child has a daily supply of clean face coverings and that they are familiar with how to wear and remove their face covering. The guidance below applies to cloth face coverings. Disposable face coverings must be safely stored in a disposable plastic bag until they can be safely discarded. If your child’s face covering is lost or damaged, they should report to the school office where we have a limited supply of face coverings which can be issued as a temporary measure.



If your child has an exemption and you have not already informed us of this, please do so by writing to us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and we will inform staff of updates daily. It may be the case that staff remind groups of children to wear a face covering and we would be grateful if you would ask your child to show their exemption card or to simply inform the member of staff that they are exempt. Please [click here](#) to see how to obtain an exemption card.



Greek Orthodox School

If your child tests positive, [the self-isolation period](#) in the UK includes the first day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if your child did not have symptoms). The [changes to the rules for self-isolation](#) were issued on 22 December and are summarised below. Please [click here](#) to read an article from BBC news which summarises these changes.

*“Individuals may now take LFD tests on **day 6 and day 7** of their self-isolation period. Those who receive **two negative test results** are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.”*

It is very important to bear in mind that individuals may still test positive and have symptoms beyond day 8- so students must only return earlier than the 10 days if they have 2 negative tests taken no earlier than day 6 and day 7.

Finally, a reminder that we have made no other changes to our COVID safe protocol:

- No student should be sent to school if they are feeling unwell and display symptoms of COVID infection.
- Face coverings are required in all communal areas and from 5 January in all classrooms. This does not apply if the student has an exemption.
- Teachers continue to teach in a clearly demarcated box at the front of their classroom.
- Tables are sprayed and cleaned at the start of every lesson.
- Ventilation in the form of doors and or windows being open continues in all classrooms.
- Students and staff are required to use hand-sanitiser as they enter and leave each classroom and communal space.
- We have continued to have split breaks and lunchtimes as well as maintaining a one-way flow around so that the number of student contacts are kept to a minimum.
- Students will continue to line-up in the playground at the end of break and lunchtime in Building 5 so that corridors continue to be calm and orderly at peak flow times.
- We have continued with an enhanced cleaning regime in both buildings.
- Non-essential assemblies, meetings with parents and visitors and staff meetings are all taking place online.

I am confident that with these measures, I will be able to continue to keep the staff and students at STA as safe as possible. My priority remains to deliver a first-class education to all of our students so that they may reach their full potential whilst keeping our school community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs I. Warwick (Headteacher)