

PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE

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Principal: **Mr G. Beattie B. Ed. M. Ed. PQH**

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Dear Parent,

In the detailed guidance that was issued to the parents last week I had indicated a strong possibility that the guidance regarding face masks in school would possibly change in the near future. We are pleased to see that many of our pupils have already been wearing masks and in a small number of cases, children have been wearing face shields.

On Tuesday evening the Department of Education updated their guidance to schools regarding face masks. The guidance recommends that all pupils and staff wear a face covering in corridors and other communal areas of post-primary schools. The updated guidance also states that given the risk mitigations in place in schools to limit and contain the spread of COVID-19, face coverings are not recommended as being compulsory for routine life in classrooms. However, staff and pupils may wish to use them throughout the school day and this is acceptable. The guidance also states that some persons (including some children) are exempt from wearing face coverings.

The advice remains the same that the Department of Education strongly recommends that all pupils wear a face covering on all dedicated school transport, including buses and taxis, where it is appropriate to do so.

Based on the guidance, we will be asking all students from 31st August onwards to wear face masks on entry and exit from school and moving in the corridors throughout the day. Whilst using the indoor communal areas at break and lunch time pupils should wear face masks whilst queueing or waiting to be seated.

We will issue each pupil with a washable plain black face mask during their induction sessions next week which can be worn in school. Further additional masks, if required, can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.00. Should pupils wish to wear their own face mask at school it should be plain or patterned and not contain any logos, motifs or writing that may be deemed offensive to any member of your school community. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please contact us by email info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact 02894 468556 or by email on info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued patience and support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

G Beattie
Principal

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a caring learning environment where each person feels valued and respected