

DUNEDIN SCHOOL

Delivers unique education to individuals

Dunedin School Update - 3 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We've now had a few weeks to settle in to the new routines at school, and, whilst it is not easy, and certainly not the same as before, we are slowly getting a bit more used to things. We've been amazed at how much effort pupils are making, and how well they are doing.

However, now we've had time to reflect on how things are working, we want to share some changes which staff have agreed, and some updated advice from the Scottish Government, particularly regarding face coverings.

Scottish Government Guidance

You may already be aware of the new guidance on the wearing of face masks announced by the Scottish Government on 25 August, which states:

In light of the latest scientific and public health advice, including World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, face coverings should now (unless exemptions apply) be worn:

- ***in secondary schools, by adults and all pupils moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where physical distancing is difficult to maintain***
- ***on dedicated school transport by all children aged five and over, bringing it into line with guidance for public transport***

At Dunedin, we obviously don't have huge numbers of staff and pupils moving about between classes, but the hallway *can* become busy in the mornings, as pupils arrive. It would be helpful if pupils could wear masks/coverings when they first come in to wash their hands and then collect their equipment. Many of them already do this, especially if they are arriving by taxi.

Use of Masks/Coverings in Class

The revised Scottish Government Guidance goes on to say:

While staff and students can continue to wear face coverings if they wish to, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom as there is greater scope for physical distancing and face coverings can have an impact on learning and teaching.

However, it remains the case that where adults cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period, face coverings should be worn.

We know that some pupils still find it difficult to wear a mask in class, but with this new guidance, and to make sure we are reducing risk and keeping everyone safe, it has become increasingly important.

We are continuing to advise that ***all*** pupils put on a mask or face covering in class when a teacher is within 2m of them.

In some subjects, it is almost impossible to maintain 2m distance for the duration of a lesson because of the amount of movement around the room, and the type of work taking place, and therefore it is even more important that at times pupils wear masks.

Staff have agreed, therefore, that if a pupil cannot wear a mask in a subject where distancing is difficult, it will be up to the individual teacher to decide whether the pupil can participate in that particular activity.

We will be speaking to pupils about these changes, as well as going over hygiene procedures again. We would be really grateful if you could also talk about this at home, and reassure your young person that we just want *everyone* to be - and feel - safe.

As always, please just get in touch if you have any concerns or worries.

Kind regards
Staff at Dunedin School