

"It takes a whole community, to bring up a child"



Ark Boulton Academy

03rd September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As the start of term beckons for our students, the DfE has provided schools with additional advice regarding the use of facemasks, by students, in school. This letter will highlight the current guidance received and Ark Boulton's policy on the use of facemasks by students. Please be aware that schools are receiving updates on a frequent basis with regards the measures that should be in place during this period of Co-Vid. The latest guidance for parents and students can also be found on the Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>.

Nationwide, the government is **not** recommending that face coverings are necessary in education settings. This is because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. At Ark Boulton these systems and measures include: the use of year group 'bubbles'; separate entry and exit routes for students; additional student hygiene routines; staggered breaks and lunch times; the minimisation of students transitioning across the school and the segregation of year groups from one another.

With this in mind face coverings will **not** be compulsory at Ark Boulton and we would recommend that students should **not** wear face coverings whilst in the classroom. However, if there is a specific health reason or strong parental preference for a student to wear a face mask then please communicate this through a signed note in your child's Learning Journal. Families that would prefer their child to wear a facemask will be allowed to do so in both the classroom and outdoor spaces. Whilst the academy will allow the use of facemasks, it is under **no obligation** to provide them. Though there is no requirement from the school that facemasks should be medical grade, we do expect face masks to be a single colour of either black or blue and that there are **no** motifs, patterns or logos. Furthermore, bandanas and scarves should **not** be used as improvised facemasks.

Should your child require the use of a facemask in school then the academy would require that this should be different to the one that they travel to school in and that the mask used for travel is appropriately stored in a separate bag, in their school bag. Furthermore, it is a national requirement that students wear a facemask when using public transport to travel to and from the academy.

We will continue to communicate any changes to families via our website and text message as and when we receive updates or changes to government guidance. Finally, we look forward to our students arriving back to the academy next week and the opportunity for a return to the classroom.

Yours sincerely

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"Growing together, reaching higher"