



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The Use of Face Coverings During the COVID Pandemic

You will be only too aware that the use of face coverings in schools has had a lot of attention in the media. The guidance regarding their use in primary schools has **not changed** and states that:

“Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.”

For secondary age children there is new guidance on face coverings in place, but the science indicates that a different approach is appropriate for younger children.

There will be some instances where the individual risk assessment for a child or member of staff does indicate that wearing a mask would be beneficial, but this will not be the norm. All our primary schools have worked hard to ensure the “system of controls” is in place to ensure they can be as safe as possible for children and staff. These include enhanced cleaning, additional hand washing and the formation of ‘bubbles’ that children will be taught within. These together with good respiratory hygiene and keeping children with symptoms away from school form the key aspects of infection control recommended by the Government.

Each school has been visited by our Trust Health and Safety advisors who have reviewed their risk assessments to ensure they are robust and sustainable. Our instructions to schools will remain open to review and we will respond to any changes to the national guidance as we have all the way through this crisis.

We know how much children will benefit from being at school again and would encourage you to make sure that your child is ready to return next week. Although no place can be completely safe from this virus the risks to every child’s wellbeing and future prospects from not attending school is very clear.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support to our schools at this very challenging time for all.

Yours sincerely

Richard Sheriff
CEO – Red Kite Learning Trust

ALLIANCE LEARNING TRUST TEACHER TRAINING

Arthurs Avenue | Harrogate | HG2 0DZ

T: 01423 535203 | W: www.rkit.co.uk | E: info@rkit.co.uk

Red Kite Learning Trust is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 7523507.

The registered office is Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate HG2 0DZ

Our Privacy Notice can be found on: www.rkit.co.uk/governance/statutory-documentation