

Gowerton School
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Ysgol Tregŵyr
Gowerton
School



27th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

WEARING OF FACE MASKS

As you aware, Gowerton School has always maintained high standards in hygiene and safety to ensure the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff. Since September, we have insisted that the school community wear face masks in all indoor communal areas and whilst travelling on school transport. At lunchtimes, year groups remain in their 'social bubbles' and do not mix.

Recently, Welsh Government has updated its guidance on the wearing of face masks in schools and on dedicated school transport. This new guidance was issued as a result of a recent TAG report which can be accessed here – [TAG Report](#). I should however stipulate that this is guidance and not policy.

After careful consideration and in consultation with our governing body, we have made the decision **not to enforce the wearing of facemasks in outside areas**. Pupils and staff are able to wear their face masks whilst outdoors if they so wish.

The rationale behind this decision is as follows:

- We already have stringent health and safety procedures in place across the school site to reduce risk of infection from COVID-19.
- Wearing face masks outdoors at lunchtimes could be detrimental to our pupils' wellbeing.
- Different year groups do not mix at lunchtimes
- The TAG Report does not mention the wearing of face coverings for pupils in outside areas

We will continue to reinforce the health & safety protocols that we currently have in place and continue to insist that **facemasks are worn in all indoor communal areas and on school transport**. We thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community safe and ask that you continue to provide masks for your children.

If you have any queries or questions, please phone the school on 01792 873461 or email gowerton.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr N Jones
Headteacher

Headteacher - Mr. N. Jones M(Ed.) - **Prifathro**