

SSTA

FACE COVERINGS – The Official Position

The SSTA has focussed throughout the covid-19 pandemic that safety of staff and pupils must be the first consideration. The SSTA continues to insist that all safety measures (such as face coverings, hand sanitisers/cleaning materials in all classrooms and strict physical distancing) should be in place in all schools.

The guidance on face coverings:

Levels 0-2

- Face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep two metres from other adults and/or young people.
- The “sustained period” 15-minute caveat no longer applies.

Levels 3-4

- Face coverings should also be worn at all times by adults and young people in classrooms in senior phase.

All Levels

- face coverings should be used by adults when not working directly with young people (for example when moving around school, in staff rooms, administrative areas, canteens, etc.).
- Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to the school site
- Classroom assistants and those supporting children with Additional Support Needs who work within two metres of young people should wear face coverings.

“...previous advice on face coverings in schools ...should be strengthened and augmented to manage the main area of risk within schools, which is adult to adult transmission. The advice has, therefore, been brought in line with current advice in the community, and the need for compliance should be strongly reinforced.”

COVID-19 Advisory Sub-group on Education and Children’s Issues (30 October 2020)

