



## Joseph Leckie Academy

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Re: minor changes to our Covid-19 risk assessment relating to face masks in classrooms

In light of the government's recent announcement of positive progress towards their roadmap for lifting lockdown, I wanted to write and update you with some of the changes we are proposing to make to our Covid-19 risk assessment for students.

As you are no doubt aware, there has been an easing of some restrictions nationally as our daily life gradually returns to something like normality. Just like the government, we are very keen not to rush this process and we want to be very cautious in lifting the safety measures that have carefully been put in place over the past few months.

With this in mind, there will be some very minor changes to our risk assessment. We will still be ensuring that social distancing is maintained whenever possible and that strict hygiene measures remain in place. The vast majority of the other key measures we have put in place as an academy will also remain.

The most publicised aspect of the revised government guidance relates to the lifting of restrictions regarding the wearing of facemasks in classrooms with this now stating that students are no longer required to wear face masks when in lessons.

As an academy we are proposing to take a more cautious approach to the lifting of requirements to wear a face covering. Rather than saying that face masks **must** be worn in classrooms, our risk assessment and protocols now state that we **strongly recommend** that face coverings should be worn in classrooms as well as in other areas of the school where social distancing cannot be maintained. Face masks will remain compulsory in the corridors around school for everyone, with the exception of those students who are medically exempt from wearing a mask.

There are various reasons why we believe this more cautious approach is right for our academy at this time. These include:

- Local rates are still higher than the national averages.
- New variants of the virus are becoming more of a concern.
- Masks still need to be worn on transport and in shops so we believe the same standard should be applied to classrooms
- We have a significant number of vulnerable students and staff in the academy. There are many members of staff, some of whom are vulnerable, who have not yet had their first or second injections.

### Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 Fax: 01922 641497

email: [postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk)

web: [www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk](http://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk)



## Joseph Leckie Academy

- If students are wearing masks in classrooms, it reduces the potential for them having to be out of school, self-isolating when there is an identified positive case
- We are very keen to reassure to you as parents and carers, that we continue to prioritise the safety of all whilst the global pandemic continues

We will continue to review and amend our protocols on a weekly basis and will update you of any further changes.

I am very grateful to everyone associated with the academy for the cooperation and support they have given with our Covid-19 safety measures. It is great news that the infection rates are falling and we are very keen to keep progressing in the right direction so that we can return to normality as soon as possible.

I hope that you will support us in our efforts to keep everyone safe by strongly encouraging your child to wear their facemask in the classroom.

Please do get in touch with us at the academy if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes

Mr J. Ludlow  
Principal

### Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

**Principal:** Mr James Ludlow

**Tel:** 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

**email:** [postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk)

**web:** [www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk](http://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk)