



To stand on the shoulders of giants

Position statement on the wearing of face coverings by pupils.  
September 2020

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Over the course of the last few days, the Government has produced further guidance on the wearing of face coverings within secondary schools in England. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Since the Government has given schools (outside of local lockdown areas) discretion as to whether face coverings should be worn or not, the following statement clarifies the position of East London Science School:

**East London Science School expects all pupils to remove face coverings before entering the school building. Face coverings are not to be worn by pupils during the school day.**

The justification for this decision is as follows:

- The Government is **not** recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings.
- Face coverings hinder the ability of pupils and staff to communicate with one another effectively.
- ELSS already has a robust system of control measures in place to mitigate the risk of contracting and/or transmitting Covid-19 within the school setting. Please see our Covid-19 risk assessment for more details.
- The current prevalence of the disease is low within the local area.
- The overall risks to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to education settings is low.

If you would like to discuss our decision further, please contact Vice-Principal Paul Cornish at [paul.cornish@eastlondonscienceschool.co.uk](mailto:paul.cornish@eastlondonscienceschool.co.uk)