

## **When should face coverings be used in schools?**

[Face coverings](#) (GOV.UK) are currently only recommended in confined public spaces, and not in school settings. It is important to note that face coverings are not the same as facemasks used as part of Personal Protective Equipment (below). A cloth face covering safely covers the nose and mouth area, can be made easily at home and is easily washed.

While face coverings can help reduce the risk of transmission in some circumstances (such as in crowded spaces where social distancing is not possible), **face coverings are intended to protect others from inadvertent (droplet) transmission by the wearer. Unlike PPE, it is not intended to protect the wearer.**

Hand hygiene (frequent hand washing), social distancing and regular cleaning (especially of high touch areas) are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. In addition, face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.