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January 20th 2022

**Dear Parents and Carers** 

You will be aware that yesterday in parliament, the government made the decision that from today face coverings are no longer needed to be worn in the classroom. I am sure you can appreciate that decisions made centrally with immediate implications, at times puts schools and Trusts in difficult positions.

All our school leaders are aware that the use of face coverings in school has been an emotive issue and all of our schools continue to do their very best to balance providing education in the best way possible with the management of Covid guidance.

In view of this, from this point onwards, our schools will no longer insist that our secondary age pupils wear face coverings in classrooms. Should parents wish their child to do so, then of course schools will support families in making this decision. Pupils should however continue to wear face coverings in communal areas until January 27<sup>th</sup>. Were infection rates to increase locally, then we do reserve the right to reinstate the use of face coverings in classrooms were the need to arise.

I would simply like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding whilst we as a Trust seek to manage both Covid issues, but more importantly our total focus on providing the best possible Catholic education for our children and young people.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Foley Catholic Senior Executive Leader @CSEL STOC