



Castlere Community School Policy on the Wearing of Face Masks

Rationale

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a broad range of measures and restrictions being put in place both at local, national and global levels. The areas of school and education have been affected by such measures and restrictions and must adapt to new practices and a new way of conducting business.

The purpose of such measures is to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, parents, the school community and indeed the community at large. The success of such measures very much depends on everyone playing their part in the spirit of "we're all in this together".

In line with National Public Health Emergency Team and Department of Education and Skills policy, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for students attending Castlere Community School until such time as public health policy and the Department of Education and Skills recommend otherwise.

Face masks must be worn by students on the school grounds, both inside and outside the school building, throughout the school day except when eating / drinking.

Public health policy and the Department of Education & Skills stipulates the wearing of face masks as opposed to visors. The wearing of face visors by students is only permitted on medical grounds where a registered medical practitioner (G.P. / Consultant Doctor) certifies a student as being unable to wear a face mask.

The following code of good practice in the wearing of face masks applies to all students attending Castlere Community School

- Students must provide their own reusable face masks
- The wearing of disposable face masks is not appropriate as disposable face masks are single-use and not designed for wearing throughout the day
- Students must bring a clean face mask to school each day
- Where medical circumstances preclude a student from wearing a face mask, that student must wear a visor
- Face masks must be understated in design and not bearing any images or logos. Students wearing inappropriate facemasks may be asked to remove the facemask and will be given an alternative. Breaches of this guideline will be dealt with through the school's code of behaviour, with sanctions applying. The management of the school reserves the right to decide if a particular face mask is inappropriate.
- Face masks must be worn as per public health guidelines (See Appendix I)
- All students must also bring clear 'ziplock' bags to school which must be used to hold facemasks when not in use.
- Littering of face masks / visors is a public health concern and will be treated as a serious breach of the school's code of behaviour and will carry appropriate sanctions.
- Where a student refuses to wear a face mask and has not furnished the school with the appropriate documentation explaining why they cannot wear a mask, this will be dealt with through the school's code of behaviour and the student's parents will be contacted and asked to remove the student from school until such time as he/she is prepared to observe public health, Department of Education and school guidelines

This policy will be subject to review and may be altered as necessary.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Castlere Community School on 24 Aug 2020

Signed Madeline O'Connell
(Chairperson B.O.M.)

Date 24/8/2020