

24 July 2022



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Kia ora koutou

Late last term we notified parents and caregivers that we were reintroducing compulsory mask wearing for the last week of the term. As promised we are now letting you know what the position will be for the start of term 3.

In the last week the Ministries of Education and Health and the Government, have strongly encouraged schools to ensure masks are worn at school.

Christchurch South Karamata Intermediate has therefore decided to continue with compulsory mask wearing indoors at school. This is in response to increasing rates of respiratory illness and COVID in the community, a usual trend of increased respiratory illness in the weeks after term 3 break, and public health advice.

This position will be reviewed before the end of week 4 of term 3 to determine if it needs to continue, be modified, or cease to apply. This policy is in addition to requirements for mask wearing at Orange under the government's COVID Protection Framework.

Our policy:

- A mask must be worn by students in all indoor settings where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning.
- This policy does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing or drama performance on stage, and PE. In these situations, particular attention will be paid to ensuring there is good ventilation during the activity, and physical distancing where practicable.
- Parents and whānau will need to provide their children with their own appropriately sized masks. We may be able to make masks available for children whose parents and whānau are unable to do so.
- Masks will need to be worn on any trips away from school.
- All staff and visitors are required to wear masks when at school.
- Students, staff and visitors who have already had COVID will still need to wear a mask.
- Students who are on our mask exemption register will not be required to wear a mask.

Ventilating classrooms, along with mask wearing and hygiene measures, continues to be important. Heating systems will continue to be fully used but we will have some windows open. We have access to some CO2 monitors and air purifiers too. Students need to dress warmly and consider multiple layers of clothing. Tights and white or navy blue polypropylene undergarments may be worn under the school shirt and the school jersey, polar fleece or softshell jacket. A reminder that we also now have a navy long pants option to our uniform that may be purchased from our uniform suppliers, Mainland Uniforms.

Unwell students must stay home. Please do not send children to school with coughs and other cold and flu like symptoms. Please continue to let the school know via the school app when your child is unwell and if they have tested positive for COVID. Parent and whānau support with this has been terrific in the past. Thank you. Our teachers have made all learning accessible online so if your child is away isolating they will be able to continue with their learning and connecting with their teachers.

We continue to appreciate that the decision to require masks to be worn indoors at school will be met with relief by many but may not sit well with others. Your support is very much appreciated as we continue to work to maintain the best possible climate for students to learn at school while also doing our best to support our health system and the pressure it is under due to the COVID pandemic.

Nga mihi

Mark Callaghan - Board Chair

Ross Hastings - Principal