

Mask Policy Houghton Valley School



Houghton Valley School has undertaken a risk assessment and will be introducing a policy for students to wear masks indoors in response to increasing rates of respiratory illness and COVID in the community.

This policy will come into effect on 26th July and we will review this policy before the end of week 4 of term 3 (19 August, 2022) 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 years 4 and above 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.
- Students with an exemption do not have to wear a mask.
- Parents and whanau will need to provide their own child-sized masks. We may be able to make mask available for children whose parents and whanau are unable to do so.
- All visitors to comply with the mask requirements in place at the time of their visit.
- We regularly assess for risks in our school and community.
- The requirement for staff to wear masks and exemptions from doing so continue to apply.