

Dear Mr Brown

I am emailing you because I wanted to inform you of the struggles I am having working as a teacher at school, given the current situation.

I have spent a great deal of time studying evidence surrounding children and SARS-COV2 from the most reputable primary and secondary sources available. I have been particularly interested in the physical and psychological effects on children of the mandatory wearing of face-coverings and the regular administration of invasive testing techniques on children.

SARS-COV2 poses very little threat to children and people of working age who are otherwise healthy. The tests used to identify so-called cases have such a high false-positive rate, that given the current low levels of SARS-COV2 in the wider population, the overwhelming majority of positive test results will not identify true cases.

Furthermore, I have yet to see any convincing evidence of SARS-COV2 being spread asymptotically.

I have also concluded that the current government imposed measures such as the mandatory wearing of face-masks by children, not only fail to meet the threshold of what might be considered effective, but actually have adverse effects on the physical and psychological well-being of the students.

Given my understanding of the situation, I feel extremely conflicted every time I am expected to play a part in the distribution of testing kits to the students in my tutor group. Furthermore, I cannot in good conscience request that students in my charge cover their faces, knowing that this act will damage their health. The Nuremburg Code established that an employee who knowingly carries out an order that is, for want of a better word 'wrong', cannot use the line of defence that they were 'simply following orders'. It is not an admissible excuse in a court of law.

In two years time, I will retire and collect my teachers' pension. I have no debts and am financially secure. Thus the consequences of dying on the hill over this matter are perhaps less profound than they are for other members of staff. I am in a position where I am able to speak out while many other members of staff I have spoken to are not. They feel conflicted, isolated and understandably prefer to keep their heads below the parapet.

Many members of staff appear not to be so familiar with the evidence surrounding SARS-COV2 and seem more than comfortable enforcing the guidelines upon the children. Some recognise that staff such as myself are not enforcing the wearing of masks with such enthusiasm, and will often order the children I am teaching to cover their faces if they are assisting in class. Some staff enter my classroom to enforce the guidelines whilst I am teaching at the front.

This behaviour by staff is the part of life at school that I find most difficult. Not only are they asking children to do something that is detrimental to their health, but their actions undermine my authority as the person in charge. Some staff clearly haven't considered that there might be perspectives different from their own, as they patronisingly take me to one side to explain things as they understand them.

It has reached the stage where it is affecting my sleep and well-being. I continue to come in because I will not let down the children that I teach. Furthermore, the last thing the Geography Department needs at the moment is to be another member of staff down.

I believe the situation could be remedied quite easily by two solutions. Firstly, all staff could be reminded that not all members of staff are comfortable with the guidelines surrounding SARS-COV2 and that opinions differ. Given this fact, members of staff could be requested not to attempt to enforce the guidelines with children under the charge of another member of staff. Secondly, perhaps willing staff without tutor groups could distribute tests to the tutor groups of staff who feel conflicted over participating in the process.

I am more than happy to share data sets and peer-reviewed studies that support any assertions I have made; please feel free to ask. The last thing I want is to cause problems, but I do hope you can understand my concerns, which are shared by other

staff. I hope that there is a positive way forward.

Kind regards

Mark Taylor