

 **The Wearing of Jewellery in PE Policy**

The wearing of jewellery, earrings and ear-studs (metal or plastic) during physical education lessons and other sporting activities such as out of hours school learning or competitive fixtures presents a safety risk. These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children.

Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings or studs and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe.

Pupils are asked to leave items of jewellery and earrings at home on days when they have PE lessons. Children who do wear earrings to school on PE days will be expected to remove them: staff will help younger children to do so.The only exception to this is where the ears have been pierced for less that 6 weeks and cannot yet be removed. In this case we will apply micropore tape over the earrings. The taping of jewellery is not ideal, and not our preffered choice. Taping can create a perception of safety. Tape can often fall off and does not reduce the risk of compression injury. Please be aware this will only be allowed during that initial 6 week window of healing.

If taping is required we ask parents to contact school to request for this to happen. Otherwise earrings will need to be removed.

Newly pierced ears can take a period of up to six weeks before studs can be removed. We do remind parents and carers that ears should be pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for earrings to be safely removed.

Parents cannot withdraw his/her child from PE lessons, as PE is a statutory subject in maintained schools until the end of Key Stage (KS) 4 and all pupils are required to attend.

We ask parents to help by ensuring that school guidance on jewellery is adhered to and that ears are pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow maximum healing time.

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