

Earrings and Jewellery during PE

Dear Parents/ Carers,

There are an increasing number of children, particularly in KS1 attending school with earrings having had them pierced during term time. Some of these children are often upset at not being able to participate in PE lessons. Others see it as a happy excuse not to do PE! Our responsibility as a school should be to enable as many children as possible to participate in physical activity and school sport.

We would like to clarify school policy on the wearing of earrings during PE and School Sport. Earrings present a hazard to both the wearer and other children taking part in sports activities. From April 2022 School policy will be as follows:

- Children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, during PE lessons.
- Teachers are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves. It would therefore be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days.
- Children are responsible for their own earrings if they are taken out at school.
- Taping of earrings is not allowed. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) issued advice last year and it supports our policy that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'. There have been several incidences within the local authority where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape.
- If a child has recently had their ears pierced and are unable to remove their earrings, they will not be permitted to take part in the practical aspect of PE lessons for six weeks, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings in order to participate in PE lessons. During this six-week period, the child will be able to take on the role of umpire, referee or coach where appropriate.

The fundamental reason not to wear earrings (or any jewellery) is that it can lead to injury for the wearer and for others in the class. Wearing earrings can result in both tearing of the ear lobe, but also the post of the earring going into the neck.

Your support is greatly appreciated with the aforementioned points.

Kind regards,

Mrs Cairns