



Jewellery and Piercing Policy

Policy Review Details

This review date is a guideline only and if circumstances or recommendations change then the policy will be reviewed and amended as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Governors on a 2 yearly basis

Date of Issue: Autumn 2025

S. Farr

Chair of Governors Signature

Headteacher Signature

Date of next review: Autumn 2027

Purpose

This policy is designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff during Physical Education (PE) lessons, swimming, sporting fixtures, extra-curricular sports activities, and other physical or enrichment sessions. It reflects national guidance and best practices, particularly from the **Association for Physical Education (AfPE)**.

Our aim is to minimise the risk of injury caused by jewellery, particularly earrings and piercings, and to ensure every child has the opportunity to participate fully and safely in physical activity.

Rationale

The wearing of jewellery, including all types of piercings, presents a **significant risk of injury** during physical activity — not only to the wearer but also to other pupils and staff. This includes injuries caused by:

- Contact with other pupils or sports equipment.
- Earrings catching on clothing or apparatus.
- Impact injuries leading to damage to the ear, neck, or surrounding tissues (e.g., the brachial nerve).

Taping over earrings is **not considered a safe alternative**. Medical and national PE guidance confirms that this gives a false sense of security and does not reduce the risk of compression or tearing injuries. Tape may also come loose during activity.

National Guidance

This policy is in line with AfPE's national guidance, which states:

“Schools have a duty of care to ensure students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. AfPE strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.”

Policy Requirements

1. No Jewellery or Earrings in PE

- All pupils **must remove earrings and all other jewellery** before participating in PE lessons or physical activity.
- **Taping of earrings is not permitted** under any circumstances.
- Pupils who arrive at school wearing earrings on PE days must be able to remove them independently.

2. Healing Period and Timing of Piercings

- If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, we strongly recommend that this is done at the **start of the summer holidays**.
- This allows the standard 6-week healing period to take place without interfering with curriculum PE lessons or extracurricular physical activities.

3. Foundation Stage Pupils

- Due to the high level of physical development activities in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), children in Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) should **not wear earrings to school at all**.
- This helps ensure full participation and maximum safety throughout the day.

4. Alternative Roles

- If a pupil is unable to remove earrings due to recent piercing:
 - They will **not be allowed to participate in contact or physical activity**.
 - A temporary non-physical role (e.g., observer, coach, scorekeeper) will be assigned for the lesson. This arrangement is temporary and should not exceed the standard healing period (6 weeks).

5. PE and Sports Days

- On PE days, it is recommended that pupils **do not wear earrings to school at all**, to reduce lost time and avoid risks during physical activity.
- This policy applies consistently across:
 - PE lessons (indoor and outdoor)
 - Swimming sessions
 - Sports day events
 - Fixtures and competitive sporting events
 - After-school sports clubs and enrichment activities

6. Staff Responsibility

- Staff will **not be responsible** for the removal, storage, or safekeeping of earrings or other jewellery at any time.
 - Staff will **not remove earrings** for pupils.
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Cultural and Religious Jewellery

We recognise and respect that some pupils may wear jewellery as an expression of their cultural or religious beliefs. While we are committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, this must be balanced with our duty to safeguard all pupils and staff and to follow established health and safety guidance.

Requests for exemptions to the jewellery policy on cultural or religious grounds must be made **in writing** and discussed with the **Headteacher**. Each request will be considered **on an individual basis**, taking into account:

- The significance of the item to the pupil's cultural or religious identity.
- Relevant equality and human rights legislation.
- Statutory health and safety requirements.
- Guidance from the Association for Physical Education (AfPE).
- The nature of the physical activities involved.

In circumstances where an exemption is granted, appropriate risk assessments and reasonable adjustments may be considered, where possible, to ensure pupil safety.

However, it is important to note that **health and safety considerations will take precedence** in situations where there is a clear risk of injury to the pupil or others.

Statutory Nature of PE

Physical Education is a **statutory part of the National Curriculum** for all pupils until the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11). As such:

- Pupils **cannot be withdrawn** from PE lessons on the basis of having a piercing.
- The only exception is where a pupil has an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** or medical evidence that explicitly states they are unable to take part in physical activity.

Parental Support

We ask for the support of all parents and carers in reinforcing this policy at home by:

- Ensuring children do not wear earrings on PE days.
- Encouraging independence in the removal and storage of jewellery.
- Timing any new piercings responsibly to avoid disruption to learning.

Conclusion

This policy exists to protect the health, safety, and learning experience of all pupils. By following national best practices and ensuring consistent expectations across the school, we aim to create a safe and inclusive environment where every child can thrive physically and academically.

We appreciate your full cooperation and understanding.