15 September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

**Earrings in PE lessons**

**Changes for week commencing 18th September 2023**

Our current policy is that children should not wear any jewellery for PE. Earrings are expected to be removed either by parents before attending school or for pupils to remove themselves. This policy will be changing slightly moving forwards from next week.

We follow the guidance from the Association for Physical Education (AFPE) safe practice document.

We have a small number of children that have had their earrings pierced at the end of the summer holiday and also children that have had their ears pierced for a while but haven’t healed.

The changes are the following;

* Children or parents **should remove earrings before or in school** **on PE days**/ before PE lessons. I cannot emphasise enough that children, if they can, **should remove their earrings before coming to school or before PE lessons.** This is the safest way for children to participate in lessons.

If this cannot happen for the reasons above then we are moving to the following procedures;

* Parents may tape the earrings up before attending school. This needs to be substantial and last until the lesson takes place.
* If children remove the taping or if the adult taking the lesson considers the taping to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, the adult will need to make adaptations in terms of how the student takes part in the practical aspects of the lesson. This could be that the children do not get involved in the contact part of lessons such as football/ hockey and will have to do something sport related independently. This is to avoid an unintentional blow by someone or a piece of equipment such as a ball.
* Staff will not be taping up earrings in school nor can they remove earrings for the children

**Swimming**

I have also been in contact with the Sheffield swimming team regarding their policy on earrings.

*‘If a child wishes to have their ears pierced, we advise that this is done at the start of the summer holidays to ensure that the ear lobe is healed, and the earrings can be removed for their lesson. If earrings of any kind e.g. studs, plastic tubes etc. cannot be removed they should* ***wear an ear band to cover up the area not tape.*** *This is due to the risk of the tape coming off or the earring coming out.*

*If a child has had a recent piercing then it is recommended by the* [*NHS*](https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/lifestyle/can-i-go-swimming-after-a-piercing/) *to avoid swimming for at least 24 hours after having the piercing and ideally until it has healed properly to ensure it stays dry as there is a risk of infection. It can take up to 6 to 8 weeks for an ear lobe to heal.’*

Yours sincerely,



Miss Jones

Executive Headteacher