



Ridgeway Primary School

Wearing of Earrings in Physical Education Lessons

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, during any PE lessons, including swimming. Teachers are not permitted to take out or replace children's earrings, if they are unable to do so themselves, it would be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days.

This policy is taken from Staffordshire County Council's guidance based on national advice issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE), that the taping of earrings '*creates a perception of safety and is not recommended*', following 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 be permitted to cover them with micro-porus tape during the six week healing period only, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings in order to participate in PE lessons.

Reviewed June 2018

Document History

25 th April 2008	Adopted at Governing Body meeting 18 th June 2008
21 st June 2014	Presented for adoption with no changes at the Behaviour & Safety Committee 24 th June 2014
19 th June 2018	Reviewed with no changes and presented for adoption at the Full Governors Meeting 27 th June 2018

This policy is due for review in 2021

Below is the published guidance from SCC

Jewellery in Physical Education

1. Jewellery should all be removed prior to a Physical Education lesson due to the increased risk of it becoming caught or causing injury to the wearer or fellow learner. The wearing of any jewellery increases the risk of injury significantly.
2. It is vital that school policies and procedures support this procedure by informing parents of the risks associated. Such policies should encourage parents to allow piercing to occur at the start of the summer holidays giving sufficient time to heal away from PE lessons. Young children, unable to remove jewellery themselves should be discouraged from wearing it to school.

3. Where children wear jewellery for religious or cultural purposes the school should sensitively inform parents of the safety hazards these articles present in physical education. It must be stressed that the teacher's prime responsibility is for the safety of the pupils. Where a decision is made to allow some types of religious jewellery then the activity must be amended to ensure the safety of the child.
4. Where jewellery cannot reasonably be removed teaching staff should ensure safety for both the wearer and other participants. This may require some task differentiation or focusing on a four-stranded model of delivery. However, in some cases a child may be removed from the "physical" element of part of a lesson where safety is compromised. This should be a measure of last resort. Should the situation persist, the school needs to work closely with parents to ensure co-operation.
5. Taping of jewellery can create a perception of safety and is not recommended. Tape can often fall off and does not reduce the risk of compression injury. A school may decide to support the use of ear piercing during the six-week healing period, although careful consideration should be taken for contact activities involving affected pupils.
6. The trend of other body piercing is increasing. It is not reasonable for teachers to ensure that all piercings are removed. However, the issue should be reflected within the school policy, which should be consistently reinforced to parents and children. It is good practice to regularly refer to the removal of all piercings prior to each lesson.
7. It is also important that teachers themselves are made aware of the dangers of wearing jewellery when teaching physical education, especially in those activities, which require support from the teacher.