

St Paul's CE (VC) First School
Coven



Earrings in PE Policy
Updated September 2016
Review Date: September 2017

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Wearing of earrings in Physical Education Lessons

It has always been the case that for Health and Safety reasons all jewellery needs to be removed for PE lessons. The exception to this had been pierced earrings. Previous guidance had stated that children wearing pierced earrings could participate in the PE lessons providing that the earrings were covered with micro-pore tape or a plaster and that the child was able to apply the plaster themselves.

Staffordshire County Council's guidance on this has now changed based on national advice issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE). It is now felt that the taping of earrings *'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'*, as 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.

The guidelines laid down by SCC: It does state that while it does not recommend the taping of earrings that it is down to the discretion of the school whether they allow tape to be used during the first six weeks healing period.

Therefore school policy from September 2015 is:

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, therefore it would be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days.

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 PE lessons for 6 weeks, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings in order to participate in PE lessons.

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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.
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 practise 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.