Striving together for excellence and enjoyment

EARRINGS IN PE LESSONS OR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Monday 21st September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

There was a change to the guidance in May 2026 regarding pierced ears in school. We are no longer able to allow children to tape their ears for PE lessons. Health and safety guidance has been published for schools on the wearing of jewellery and earrings during PE and sporting activities.

The guidance supports consistent and safe practice across PE lessons, competitions and extracurricular sport, and reflects current national advice from the Association for Physical Education.

Jewellery, particularly earrings, continues to be a cause of injury in PE and sport. The aim is to help schools prevent avoidable injuries while ensuring pupils are treated fairly and inclusively.

Schools are expected to:

- require all jewellery to be removed before PE and sporting activities
- avoid taping earrings, as this does not adequately control the risk
- use risk assessment templates to clearly identify jewellery as a hazard and set out appropriate control measures
- ensure arrangements apply consistently across lessons, clubs and events, including those delivered by external coaches

Where earrings cannot be removed, pupils should be provided with suitable non-physical roles during the activity.

- Jewellery should be removed at home before school on PE days – in our school this is two days each week and also on any days that children are participating in sports clubs.
- We cannot accept disclaimers or waivers relating to jewellery injuries.
- Adults in school are not able to (or allowed to) remove children's earrings and no responsibility is taken for lost jewellery.
- Children who are unable to remove their earrings will need to be given a different role in the PE lesson which is far from ideal in terms of their physical education.
- For this reason piercing ears at the start of the summer holiday is recommended to allow healing time.

If you have any questions, please make an appointment to see us to discuss this.

Mrs. Magdeburg (Headteacher) and Miss McDonald (PE Lead)

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