



Saint John Houghton CVA

Wearing Jewellery/piercings in Physical Education Lessons

The Department for Education's current guidance national advice based on the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE) and The Association of Physical Education (AfPE) states that best practice is:

Jewellery is not allowed - jewellery should 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.

No taping of piercings is allowed - as the taping of earrings '*creates a perception of safety and is not recommended*', as there have been several incidences nationally where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape.

Therefore, our Academy stance on the wearing of piercings in PE is as follows: Students or adults are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings and nose studs during PE lessons. Staff are not allowed to take out or replace students' earrings/nose studs 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 student has recently had a new piercing and are unable to remove their earrings/nose stud, they will not be permitted to take part in practical PE lessons for 6 weeks** (or until they can be removed safely)*, after which time they will be expected to remove their piercing in order to participate in PE lessons. **Students who are not able or permitted to take part in the physical element of lessons will be required to take on an officiating/coaching role rather than participating fully** – students must be in full PE kit in this role (students will not be removed from PE).

A signed parental disclaimer does not transfer legal responsibility from the school to the parent and holds no legal weight. The school's duty of care remains in force regardless.

St. John Houghton advises all parents/Carers that new piercings should be done at the start of the long summer holiday, so piercings can be removed by the time term starts in September.

**PE staff taking the lesson will record the start date of absence from practical PE due to piercings – timescales will be monitored to prevent extended unnecessary absence from practical curriculum activities.*