



## Jewellery Policy & Physical Education Update

### Physical Education Earring

The policy is designed to ensure our students and staff members have the safest experience in their PE lessons. The policy is based on professional guidance issued by the Association for Physical Education (AfPE) and has the best interests of our students at heart.

AfPE guidance states that:

*“Schools have a duty of care to ensure students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education (AfPE) strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.”*

*‘The reason not to wear earrings (or any jewellery) is that it can lead to injury for the wearer and for others in the class and it is the teacher’s duty of care that must apply here. The reason is both about tearing of the ear lobe, but also the post of the earring going into the neck which is where the brachial nerve is running directly to the brain. This is a policy statement from the Association of PE (AfPE)’*

Therefore, our policy has stated that children should not participate in any form of physical activity whilst wearing earrings or jewellery. This helps ensure all students and teachers are safe and leaves no grey areas. We accept that piercings take time to heal, and this can be up to 6 weeks. Therefore, we would always advise that if a pupil is considering piercing their ears, this is undertaken at the beginning of the summer holidays to maximize healing time. Any piercing that cannot be taken out at school will ultimately harm your child’s physical education.

Earrings at BST:

- If a child arrives to a PE lesson wearing earrings, they should take them out and place them safely with their belongings.  
**We recommend that on the days they have PE / Games they do not wear them for the full day.** This helps reduce the time needed in the changing rooms and prevents from losing them.
- Children should not tape up earrings.
- If a child is unable to remove a earring or piercing, they must provide their PE teacher or Head of Year with evidence of when the piercing took place and provide an estimate as to when they can remove the piercing and take part fully in PE.

- For consistency, this policy applies to all practical PE lessons, fixtures and extra-curricular sports activities.
- An authorization will have to be signed by parents in CIFRA, for the wearing of earrings for the rest of the time.
- Teachers cannot take responsibility for earrings or other valuables at any point.

Revised October 2024