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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we have begun the term we have had numerous queries regarding earrings and school, including PE lessons.

Our current policy is that children wearing earrings do not participate in PE lessons for safety reasons. Due to the number of queries regarding this issue I have contacted the Association for Physical Education and gained advice from them.

From their 'Safe practice in physical education, school sport and physical activity' document, the following advice has been given.

Earrings: Students unable to remove earrings should be required to make them safe by taping, front and back, which may offer a measure of protection. The taping should be sufficient to prevent the stud post penetrating the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received (e.g. from someone or from equipment such as a ball).

*This taping may be done at home for younger children or prior to the lesson for older students. **Staff are not required to remove or tape earrings for students.***

Where taping is utilised, the teacher supervising the group maintains the legal responsibility to ensure the taping is effective for purpose. Where staff consider the taping to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, they will need to consider alternative involvement in the lesson for the student.

The use of retainers (flat studs that retain the piercing when earrings or studs are removed) is becoming more common as a form of acceptable substitution where total removal is not possible. Provided these are flat and cannot cause damage if a blow or ball hits the side of the head, the level of risk is clearly reduced.

Based on this advice we have adapted our policy – children with earrings will be able to participate in PE lessons as long as they have tape on their ears as per the advice above. This must be done at home or prior to the lesson by the child. Staff in school will not be taping children's ears. If your child does not have tape on their ears and is not able to put the tape on themselves they will not be participating in a PE session.

All children wearing earrings should have them taped throughout the school day. The responsibility for ensuring this is with you the parents and/or the child. School staff are not required to tape children's ears. Please do not put your child in the difficult position of coming into school without tape and having to ask staff for help. Ensure they have their ears taped up and have spare tape with them.

I hope this clears up any queries from this past week.
If you have any further questions regarding this please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

S Leck