



Uniform Policy – Rational for Rules on Wearing of Earrings and Jewellery

For the safety and well-being of all our pupils, **children are not permitted to wear earrings of any kind in school, including on PE days.** This policy applies to all types of earrings—including studs, hoops, retainers, and expanders.

The safety of our pupils is of paramount importance, particularly during physical activity, playtimes, and PE lessons, where the risk of injury from snagging, pulling, or tearing is significantly increased. On a personal note, I have previously had to take a child to A&E at a former school due to a serious ear injury caused by an earring being accidentally ripped out during playtime. **I am determined to avoid this kind of injury here**, which is why our policy is so strictly enforced.

We base this policy on clear guidance from expert bodies, including The Association for Physical Education (afPE), which states:

“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... This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.”

To comply with this essential duty of care and ensure a safe environment for all, we kindly ask that **all earrings and jewellery are removed before your child arrives at school each day.**

Please note:

- Staff are **not permitted** to remove earrings for pupils.
- Taping over earrings is **not** an acceptable or safe alternative as it will not prevent tearing of the ear.

If a child arrives at school wearing earrings, we regretfully must take steps to ensure their safety and the safety of others during physical play. Therefore, children wearing earrings will be asked to remain off the playground during breaktimes and lunchtimes. **This is not intended as a punishment, but a necessary safety measure** as we cannot guarantee their safety or the safety of others from injury during active outdoor play.

We sincerely appreciate your support in helping us maintain a secure and compliant environment for all children.

We make reasonable adjustments for students with a protected characteristic.

Risk Assessment

| Activity/Mechanism | Increased Risk | Injury Example |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
| Contact Sports/Games | High | Another student's hand, finger, or clothing catches the earring, tearing the earlobe. |
| Using Apparatus | High | The earring gets snagged on climbing equipment, nets, or ropes. |
| Ball Sports | Moderate | A ball hits the ear, forcing the post of a stud earring into the back of the ear/neck area , which is a serious concern. |
| Free Play/Recess | Moderate | Getting bumped, pushed, or falling while playing. |