

# St Paul's CE (VC) First School Coven



## Earrings in PE Policy

***At St Paul's, our welcoming Christian community, accepts and enables all to flourish to achieve their God-given potential. We develop independent and resilient learners, who lovingly respect each other with care and kindness. All are invited to make a difference in the world in which they live following in the footsteps and teachings of Jesus Christ.***

***"Love your neighbour as yourself." - Luke 10:27***



## **St Paul's First School, Coven**

### **Earrings in PE Policy**

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| Comments: | Annual Review<br><br>Written in September 2015 by K. Roberts                                                                    |
| Signed:   | <br><br>13 <sup>th</sup> November 2017         |
| Reviewed: | <br><br>19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018       |
| Reviewed: | <br><br>12 <sup>th</sup> October 2020        |
| Reviewed: | <br><br>20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024          |
| Reviewed: | <br><br>12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025          |
| Reviewed: | <br><br>24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 Jo Sawyer |
|           |                                                                                                                                 |

## St Paul's First School

### Wearing of earrings in Physical Education Lessons

It has always been the case that for Health and Safety reasons all jewellery needs to be removed for PE lessons. The exception to this had been pierced earrings. Previous guidance had stated that children wearing pierced earrings could participate in the PE lessons providing that the earrings were covered with micro-pore tape or a plaster and that the child was able to apply the plaster themselves.

Staffordshire County Council's guidance on this has now changed based on national advice issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE) and The Association of Physical Education (AfPE) It is now felt that the taping of earrings **'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'**, as there have been several incidences within the local authority where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape.

The guidelines state: ***All 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.***

Therefore, school policy from September 2021 is:

**Children or adults are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, during PE lessons. Staff are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings 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 child has recently had their ears pierced and are unable to remove their earrings they will not be permitted to take part in PE lessons until their earrings can be fully removed. Children who are not able or permitted to take part in the physical element of lessons will be required to take on a coaching role or take part in theory-based activities. Please be advised that PE is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for Years 1-4. It is therefore advised that pupils do not have their ears pierced during a school term.**

All pupils from Key Stage 1 are required by law to take part in PE lessons this is outlined in government guidance which states: ***'Physical education (PE) is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils from Key Stage 1' (Department for Education, GOV.UK, 2015)***

Main Points:

1. All 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.
2. It is vital that school policies and procedures support this procedure by informing parents of the risks associated. Such policies should encourage parents to allow piercing to occur at the start of the summer holidays giving sufficient time to heal away from PE lessons. Young children, unable to remove jewellery themselves should be discouraged from wearing it to school.
3. Where children wear jewellery for religious or cultural purposes the school should sensitively inform parents of the safety hazards these articles present in physical education. It must be stressed that the teacher's prime responsibility is for the safety of the pupils. Where a decision is made to allow some types of religious jewellery then the activity must be amended to ensure the safety of the child.
4. Where jewellery cannot reasonably be removed, teaching staff should ensure safety for both the wearer and other participants. This may require some task differentiation or focusing on a four stranded model of delivery. However, in some cases a child may be removed from the "physical" element of part of a lesson where safety is compromised. This should be a measure of last resort. Should the situation persist the school needs to work closely with parents to ensure co-operation.
5. Taping of jewellery can create a perception of safety and is not recommended. Tape can often fall off and does not reduce the risk of compression injury.
6. The trend of other body piercing is increasing. It is not reasonable for teachers to ensure that all piercings are removed. However, the issue should be reflected within the school policy which should be consistently reinforced to parents and children. It is good practise to regularly refer to the removal of all piercings prior to each lesson.
7. It is also important that teachers themselves are made aware of the dangers of wearing jewellery when teaching physical education, especially in those activities, which require support from the teacher.