

To: Parents/Carers of Pupils Year 7-11

Our ref: 87560724

21 September 2023

Re: Physical Education Earring Update

Dear Parents/Carer

Physical Education Earring Update

I am writing to remind you of our policy around piercings and PE lessons at South Hunsley School. The policy is designed to ensure our students and staff members have the safest experience in their PE lessons. The policy is based on national 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.”

It has therefore been stated in our policy for a number of years that students 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. We would therefore always advise that if a pupil is considering piercing their ears, this is undertaken at the beginning of the summer holidays so as to maximise healing time. Any piercing that cannot be taken out at school will ultimately be detrimental to your child’s physical education.

Earrings at South Hunsley:

- If a student arrives to a PE lesson wearing earrings, they should take them out and place them safely with their belongings.
- Students should not tape up earrings.
- If a student is unable to remove a 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.
- Students with earrings will be allowed to take part in any skill development elements of their PE lessons but will then take a non-participant role in any competition element of the lesson.
- Once students can remove their studs 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.
- If a student refuses to take their earrings out, after the designated healing time, this is considered defiance and students will be sanctioned accordingly, in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- For consistency, this policy applies to all practical PE lessons, fixtures and extra-curricular sports activities.
- Teachers cannot take responsibility for earrings or other valuables at any point.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to strive to give all students at South Hunsley School the best experience possible in PE.

Yours sincerely



Miss Bennett
Head of Physical Education
South Hunsley School