

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Andrew's the safety and wellbeing of our children are at the heart of everything we do. We are writing to remind families about our expectations regarding earrings and other jewellery during Physical Education (PE) lessons, sports clubs and physical activities.

We understand that earrings are often an important personal choice and that many children enjoy wearing them. However, during PE, jewellery can present a risk to both the wearer and other children. For this reason, we follow the guidance of the **Association for Physical Education (afPE)**, which states that **all jewellery and personal effects** are removed before taking part in physical activity. This includes all ear piercings, retainers, flat-back earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches and false nails (yes, some children do arrive at school wearing these).

We are aware that some children wear flat-back earrings because they are often considered a safer option. However, these are still not suitable for PE. Whilst the back may be flatter, earrings can still be caught, pulled or torn from the ear during activity. In addition, the front of the stud can become loose and fall out. If another child were to fall onto a loose stud, there is a risk of injury. Therefore, flat-back earrings do not remove the safety concerns associated with wearing earrings during physical activity.

We would also like to clarify that earrings may not be covered with tape or plasters. National PE guidance advises that taping earrings does not make them safe and can create a false sense of security, while the risk of injury remains.

To help us keep everyone safe, we ask that earrings are removed before children come to school on PE days. As school staff are not permitted to remove or replace earrings, children should either be able to remove them independently or have them removed at home before school.

If a child is unable to remove their earrings, they will not be able to take part in the practical elements of the PE lesson. Instead, they will be provided with an alternative learning activity, such as officiating, observing, evaluating performance, coaching, scoring or completing PE-related written work. Once earrings have been removed, they will be able to participate fully in PE lessons again. This approach ensures that we meet our duty of care while still keeping children engaged in their learning.

If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, afPE recommends arranging this at the start of the summer holiday wherever possible, allowing sufficient healing time before children return to school and PE lessons.

We appreciate your understanding and support with this matter. By working together, we can ensure that all children are able to enjoy PE and sport in a safe and positive environment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,

Beccy Ireland-Curtis

Headteacher