

Amble Links Primary School



Wearing of earrings in Physical Education lessons, swimming, sports events and after school sports clubs.

It has always been the case that, for Health and Safety reasons, all jewellery needs to be removed for PE lessons and after school sports clubs. An 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 micropore tape and that the child was able to apply the tape themselves.

Based on updated national advice issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE) and The Association of Physical Education (AfPE), it is felt that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended', as there have been several incidences where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under tape.

The guidelines states: 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, our updated school policy is that children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, or watches during PE lessons and after school sports clubs.

Staff are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves, therefore earrings could be removed at home on PE and Swimming 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 fully in PE lessons until their earrings can be fully removed. We hold a stock of hypo-allergenic silicone retainers at the school office that parents may choose to use to replace earrings with to ensure piercings remain open.

Children who are not able or permitted to take part in the physical element of lessons will be required to take on another role in PE such as observing, coaching, timing or umpiring. Please be advised that PE is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for Years 1-6. **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 (including swimming). 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).