



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

57, Gatacre Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2LQ

Telephone: (01473) 251603

e-mail: schooloffice@handfordhall.omat.org.uk

www.handfordhall.omat.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)

3rd September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Physical Education Earring Update

I am writing to remind you of our policy around piercings and PE lessons at Handford Hall Primary School. The policy is designed to ensure our pupils 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 several years that pupils 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 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 Handford Hall Primary School:

- ✚ If a pupil arrives to a PE lesson wearing earrings, they should take them out and place them safely with their belongings.
- ✚ Pupils should not tape up earrings.



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- ✚ If a pupil is unable to remove a piercing, parents must provide their class teacher 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.
- ✚ Once pupils can remove their studs, we recommend that on the days they have PE session they do not wear them for the full day.
- ✚ For consistency, this policy applies to all practical PE lessons, fixtures and extracurricular sports activities.
- ✚ Teachers and support staff 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 pupils at Handford Hall Primary School the best experience possible in PE.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Blake
Headteacher



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