

## HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### The Wearing of Jewellery in PE

Schools have a duty of care to ensure that pupils are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. Therefore, personal effects, such as earrings, religious artefacts, watches and hair slides should be removed to establish a safe working environment. At Houghton on the Hill Primary School, pupils are asked to remove earrings on P.E. days. This should be done at home before coming to school. If a child has recently had their ears pierced, we would ask that these are taped on PE days for 6 weeks but we recommend and advise that new ear piercings are done at the start of the summer holiday.

Wearing of jewellery can cause a danger to an individual or to others. For example, a dropped earring on the floor can be like stepping on a pin, a necklace or bracelet could get caught on a piece of equipment or a piercing could penetrate the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received from someone or some item, such as a ball. Therefore, we ask all parents to support us with this policy to prevent injury to their child and others.

Religious artefacts need to be removed or made safe for the same reason. If bracelets can not be removed, sweatbands need to be placed on top of them but again, no jewellery is the safest option.

If a pupil forgets to remove the earrings at home, they will be asked to remove them to establish a safe PE lesson. Teachers can't take responsibility for looking after these items. If a child is unable to remove the earrings, for example, because of their age, they will be asked to use tape. Taping over ear piercings may offer a measure of protection in some P.E. activities where pupils are required to work within their own personal space. However, the amount of tape used needs to be sufficient to prevent an accident. If the teacher considers the taping to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, they will make safe adaptations in terms of how the pupil takes parts in the practical aspects of the lesson. For example, if the lesson is a gym lesson and children are asked to roll on the mat, the teacher may feel it is safer that the child with taped piercings completes a different activity such as providing feedback to their peers. We aim to include all children in P.E. lessons but if a child has taped earrings, they may not be able take part in all the practical activities. Therefore, no jewellery is the best option for safety and for learning new skills.