

Bentley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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"Know that I am with you always," Matthew 28:20

Dear Parents/ Carers,

There are an increasing number of children in school with earrings. Our responsibility as a school is to enable as many children as possible to participate in physical activity and school sport in a safe way.

As earrings present a hazard to both the wearer and other children taking part in sports activities, we would like to clarify school policy on the wearing of earrings during PE and School Sport.

School policy is as follows:

- * Children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, during PE lessons.
- * Teachers are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves. It would therefore be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days.
- * Children are responsible for their own earrings if they are taken out at school.

In line with the Association for Physical Education (AfPE) advice issued last year, taping of earrings is not recommended, as it 'creates a perception of safety'. There have been several incidences within the local authority where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape.

The fundamental reason not to wear earrings (or any jewellery) is that it can lead to injury for the wearer and for others in the class. Wearing earrings can result in both tearing of the ear lobe, but also the post of the earring going into the neck.

If a child has recently had their ears pierced and are unable to remove their earrings, they may not be permitted to take part in the practical aspect of PE lessons for six weeks, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings in order to fully participate in PE lessons. During this six-week period, the child will be able to take on other roles within the lesson, such as referee or coach where appropriate.

On rare occasions, there may be other circumstances where a child is unable to remove earrings. If you are unable to follow this policy and your child cannot remove their earrings, please contact school to discuss the reasons for this. You will be asked to sign a waiver acknowledging that you take full responsibility if your child is hurt due to wearing earrings during a PE lesson.

We do reserve the right to remove a child from any physical activity if it is deemed to be a risk.