



# STOWFORD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

## Re: Personal Effects, Jewellery and Body Piercing

Stowford School Uniform, Curriculum and Health and Safety policies are designed to establish a safe working environment for all children. Children are allowed to wear a watch and wear **one** pair of small stud earrings if they have pierced ears, however no other jewellery should be worn. All personal effects should be removed for physical activity.

The "Safe Practice in Physical Education and Sport" document is nationally accredited advice from the Association for Physical Education. This document, in addition to Devon Pedpass Safety Advice and the Health, Safety and Well-being Guidance for Academies, states that all body piercing constitutes an increased risk of injury in physical education including swimming, extra-curricular sports clubs and competitive fixtures.

*"These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings/studs and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe."*

Having reviewed this guidance carefully and with all children's safety in mind, earrings must be removed for P.E. not simply taped over. We would ideally encourage pupils to leave earrings at home on days when they have physical education lessons, especially if they are too young to remove them themselves. Pupils who are not able to remove earrings should not actively participate in physical education for their own and others' safety or may partake in an adapted part of the lesson. In this circumstance a pupil will be asked to undertake the role of coach, official or other learning activity that is relevant.

I appreciate that newly pierced ears can take a period of up to six weeks before earrings can be removed and ideally pupils who have their ears pierced should do so at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for earrings to be safely removed.

I would ask for your co-operation to actively work with us in helping to minimise any disruption to the physical education curriculum for your child and to ensure safety for all. The school cannot accept any disclaimers from parents alleging the removal of responsibility from teachers in the event of an injury occurring while their child takes part wearing jewellery; such indemnities have no legal status.

Your co-operation is truly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Williams*

**Mrs S Williams**  
Headteacher

