



Important Reminder: Health and Safety Guidance

Regarding Jewellery in Physical Education (PE)

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St. Edmund's C of E Primary and Nursery School, the safety and well-being of our pupils are our highest priorities. We also pride ourselves on delivering a high-quality Physical Education (PE) curriculum, which is a statutory requirement for all primary-aged children and vital for their physical development and health.

To ensure that all children can participate fully and safely, I am writing to clarify our school policy regarding the wearing of jewellery, specifically earrings, during PE lessons.

National Safety Guidance

Our school policy follows the strict health and safety guidance provided by the Association for Physical Education (afpe) and National Guidance (NYES). These professional bodies state that all jewellery should be removed for PE, physical activity, and swimming.

The reasons for this are significant:

• Risk of Injury:	• Earrings can easily become caught in clothing, equipment, or through contact with other children, leading to torn earlobes.
• Serious Complications:	• National guidance warns that in the event of a collision or impact, the post of an earring can cause injury to the neck area, where the brachial nerve runs toward the brain.
False Security:	• Using tape or plasters to cover earrings is not considered a safe solution. It does not eliminate the risk of impact injury and can give a false sense of security.

Legal Duty of Care

As a school, we have a legal "Duty of Care" to ensure the safety of all pupils. Please be aware that under national health and safety guidelines, parental disclaimers or "permission slips" to wear jewellery during PE are legally unenforceable. The school cannot waive its responsibility to keep children safe, even at a parent's request.



Expectations for Participation

Because PE is a statutory part of the curriculum, we want every child to participate in every lesson.

To facilitate this, we ask for your support with the following:

- 1. Independent Removal:** For health and safety reasons, staff members are not permitted to remove or replace a child's earrings. Pupils must be able to remove their own earrings or have them removed at home before coming to school on PE days.
- 2. Practice at Home:** If your child has recently had their ears pierced, please practice the removal and replacement of earrings at home so they feel confident doing it independently at school.
- 3. New Piercings:** We strongly recommend and advise that if children are having their ears pierced, this is done at the very beginning of the summer holidays. This allows the six-week healing period to pass before the start of the new academic year, ensuring they do not miss out on vital PE lessons.

If a child is unable to remove their earrings and they are not removed before school, they may be unable to participate in the practical elements of the lesson to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Our full uniform policy can be found on our website here: <https://www.st-edmunds.notts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Uniform-Policy.pdf>

We thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our school environment safe and ensuring your child can enjoy the full range of physical activities we offer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Anthony Bandy-Webb

Headteacher

St. Edmund's C of E Primary and Nursery School