# The wearing of jewellery in school

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## General Statement

The wearing of personal effects, such as jewellery and watches, can present risks of injury to the person and/or others involved in an activity. Exposure to the risk of injury from such items can principally occur in Physical Education.

The following policy outlines the non-wearing of jewellery for PE purposes; however this has been extended to the non-wearing of jewellery for pupils throughout the school day because:

i. The Association for Physical Education (AfPE) states that Pupils should remove their own jewellery and if a child / young person, is unable to do this themselves, they should not wear any or they can where necessary be supported to remove jewellery.
ii. Physical activity is delivered on a cross-curricular basis, it does not just take place in PE lessons, so the same risks are applied throughout the school day.

## General Aims

To ensure that employees and others, such as school pupils, taking part in Physical Education lessons are aware;-

- of the hazards of wearing jewellery & watches
- that control measures are in place to avoid the risk of injury
- that to enable individuals to understand that, as well as the right to protection, they also have to exercise responsibility.

## Scope

This procedure applies where persons who are wearing jewellery and watches can potentially expose themselves and others to the risk of injury while taking part in any Physical Education.

There have been serious incidents and legal cases involving jewellery in PE and physical activity and this procedure protects against that happening. It is not just about making the wearer of the jewellery safe, it is about keeping everyone safe thus making a parental disclaimer ineffective and legally unenforceable.

## Procedure

The following advice applies to ALL body jewellery and watches, except for bracelets worn for religious reasons that cannot be removed. These bracelets will be covered with a sweatband and secured by tape.

1. There should be risk assessments in place for all PE activities e.g., rugby, football, hockey, etc. The risk assessments should be made specific to each activity. Wearing of jewellery should be identified as a hazard in each risk assessment with a subsequent control measure (exemption from activity, removal of jewellery/watch, cover-up of bracelets worn

for religious reasons that cannot be removed, adjustment to activity, etc.). The risk assessments should be written. All relevant staff should have the risk assessment and its findings shared with them.

2. All schools should follow the advice of the Association for Physical Education (AfPE) as follows:
    - The basic rule is that all jewellery should be removed as this then removes that particular hazard.
    - The National guidance has always been that no jewellery should be worn in PE and that includes swimming and physical activity. It is not safe to cover ear-rings / studs / sleepers with tape. The reason is both because of the potential tearing of the ear lobe, but also the chance that the post of the ear-ring could damage the neck which is where the brachial nerve is running directly to the brain. There are anecdotal cases of children wearing ear-rings / studs with plasters over being hit by a ball or coming off worse in a collision and having nasty injuries as a consequence.

3. Parents should be reminded that the school has the higher-level duty of care and cannot be put in the situation of looking after their child without exercising that duty of care. It is dictated by national guidance, and they need to comply. Parental disclaimers are ineffective and legally unenforceable.

Where an item of Jewellery cannot be removed, staff should report this to the leadership team.