



We regularly receive enquiries from parents about ear piercings and school policy. At Heron Hill Primary School we follow the Safe Practice Book which states on p212:

2.14.8 A clear and consistently applied procedure for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings.

2.14.9 If a school adopts a policy where taping is utilised to enable participation then appropriate action needs to be taken at the start of the lesson. Staff are not required to remove or tape up earrings for students. Students should come ready for the lesson, preferably with earrings removed or adequately taped. Taping over ear and body piercings may offer a measure of protection in some physical activity situations, where individuals are required to work within their own personal space. However, the amount of tape needs to be sufficient to prevent the piercing penetrating, for example, the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received from someone or some item of equipment, such as a ball.

2.14.10 Where the school accepts taping, the teacher supervising the group has the legal responsibility to ensure the taping is fit for purpose. If the teacher considers the taping to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, they will need to make adaptations in terms of how the student takes part in the practical aspects of the lesson. The student can contribute to group planning, designing and tactical discussions, but can have different tasks assigned to them during the practical elements of the lesson (for example, individual skills practices, peer coaching, observation and feedback tasks, videoing others to analyse at a later stage, or officiating in a games context).

In summary;

- Our preference at Heron Hill Primary School is complete removal of ear piercings as this is recognised as best practice.
- If a child wears earrings they must be small, basic stud earrings. Hooped earrings cannot be worn.
- Every child has a statutory right to PE via the National Curriculum so every child MUST take part in PE lessons in some way.
- The teacher has duty of care for the safety of the children.
- If earrings are being taped, the teacher will visually check this and decide if the taping is adequate. If they are not adequately taped, the child will take on another, non-physical role in PE.
- Staff are not permitted to tape earrings or apply any form of adhesive plaster to the child's ears.