

19 July 2024  
DJn/sbt

## KOA Health Department – Jewellery Policy Update

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to inform you of an important update regarding our Physical Education (PE) lessons across all phases, which will take effect from September 2024. For consistency, this policy applies to all practical PE lessons, fixtures and extra-curricular sporting activities.

From September 2024 all jewellery must be removed for PE lessons, fixtures and extra-curricular sporting events. This is in line with the guidance from the Association for Physical Education (AfPE) aimed at ensuring the safety of all students during physical activities.

Jewellery includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches, rings, and any other forms of piercings. The safety of our students is our top priority, and this measure is designed to prevent injuries that can occur when jewellery is worn during physical activities. This will include all Physical Education lessons, fixtures and extra-curricular regardless of activity.

AfPE guidance states that:

2.14.7 Schools have a duty of care to ensure students can participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them.

2.14.8 A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education (AfPE) 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, including retainer and expander earrings.

In line with the guidance, please see below for a summary of updates to our PE and uniform policy and working practice that will take effect from 1 September 2024. Your child has already been made aware of the updates to our uniform and jewellery policy during their Term 6 2023-24 PE lessons. They have been involved in discussions as to why removing jewellery is important for their own health and safety but also the safety of others.

### Uniform and Jewellery Policy Updates

- All children must remove all jewellery to participate in PE lessons
- If your child is unable to remove their jewellery independently, this will need to be removed prior to attending school on the day of their PE lesson.
  - Children are responsible for their own jewellery if they are removed in school, as teachers cannot take responsibility for any personal items.

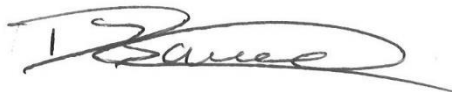
- Children will not be permitted to tape any jewellery. The Association for PE issued advice that supports our policy that the taping of jewellery “creates a perception of safety and is not recommended.”
  - There have been incidences of injuries where jewellery has been caught under the tape. Furthermore, plasters and tape can fall off during any physical activity and does not reduce the risk of injury. 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.
- We understand that some children may have newly pierced ears or other types of piercings, and we want to ensure that this policy is communicated well in advance. If you are considering getting a piercing for your child, we kindly request that you arrange for this to be done in the first week of the summer holidays. This timing will allow sufficient healing time so that jewellery can be safely removed during PE lessons once school resumes in September.
  - If your child has recently had a new piercing, they will need to submit a letter to their PE teacher about healing completion time. If this is the case, your child will still be expected to participate in PE lessons through coaching or umpiring roles and wear their full KOA PE uniform.
- If your child has a piercing that becomes infected, a note will need to be given to their PE teacher with expected healing time and a return to being able to fully participate in PE. If this is the case, your child should continue to bring their full KOA PE kit, as they will be expected to undertake coaching or umpiring roles.
- If your child refuses to remove any jewellery, then the KOA behaviour policy will be followed under the premise that they are refusing to follow teacher instructions.

We appreciate your co-operation and understanding in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the PE department.

Copies of the Association of Physical Education guidelines are available at reception upon request.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely



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FAQ's	
A student does get a new piercing during the school year and cannot remove the piercing for __ weeks.	The student will still need to participate in the PE lesson by changing into their PE kit. They will be given another role in the lesson such as umpiring/refereeing or coaching. Once the healing process is complete, students are expected to remove the jewellery for their PE lesson. Students will be expected to bring a note from home with the date that healing time will be completed by.
A student has an existing piercing, and it gets infected/brings a note in from home to say that there is an infection.	If this happens, students will be asked to participate in PE by refereeing or coaching activities and games. They will be expected to wear their full KOA PE kit. This will be noted by their PE teacher and once the infection is cleared, the student is expected to remove their jewellery for their PE lesson.
A student has a piercing/jewellery piece for religious reasons - what are the expectations?	Bangles – sweatband to cover for their PE lesson or covered appropriately. Students must still wear their full KOA PE kit.
A student can remove the piercing and chooses not to.	This is refusal to follow school policy and behaviour expectations. The student will be sent to reflection.



**WORK HARD, BE KIND**

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