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"Believing is Achieving"

January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I appreciate there have been some frustrations regarding earrings and PE. I apologise that this information was not communicated in the January Newsletter. I have received the guidance below from Hampshire which the school will adhere to and aims to clarify the school's procedure:

Jewellery and other personal effects

All jewellery and other personal effects such as watches (including fitness watches), necklaces, body piercings, etc. must be removed for PE and related activities.

- Jewellery (earrings, bangles, etc.) should not be worn to school in the first place.
- Where jewellery is worn it must be removed for physical activity.
- With very young children, please can you remove the earrings and studs from the children's ears before they come to school each day, until such time your child is able to. Please support your child with showing them how to do this.
- If under exceptional circumstances it cannot be removed (e.g. cultural practice or newly pierced ears), the risk of injury should be reduced where it is practicable to do so. This could be by:
 - bracelets being secured by the use of a wrist sweatband.
 - studs being secured by the use of micropore.
 - using tape or masking tape (not elastoplast or sellotape).

In these circumstances care must be taken to effectively cover the spike at the back of the ear lobe. – small, hooped sleepers being secured by the use of a headband – although it is recommended that this type of ear adornment is not worn in the school. Studs are a safer option in the short-term.

Teachers and other school staff will not involve themselves in the process of earring removal or taping, other than providing the tape.

Each class will be provided with some masking tape as a precautionary measure if the above has not be actioned in advance of the PE lesson. Refusal to remove the earrings or inability to remove them will mean that your child misses part of the PE curriculum which is not what the school wants. Please let us work together so this does not happen.

Best wishes

Mrs J Livingstone Executive Headteacher

