



Merridale Primary School

Aspen Way Wolverhampton WV3 0UP
Telephone: 01902 558760
E Mail: office@merridaleprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Laura Towle
www.merridaleprimary.co.uk

Date: Thursday 23rd October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earrings and Jewellery – PE

We recently sent a message to all parents and carers explaining that **we will no longer allow children to take part in PE lessons if they are wearing earrings**. We have previously allowed children to participate in PE lessons if they covered their earrings with a plaster/tape (sent from home). However, we have recently received some advice that makes it clear that this is not appropriate. This is for health and safety reasons so that our children can be as safe as possible during physical education lessons.

Guidance from AFPE (Association for Physical Education) makes it clear that all personal items **must** be **removed** for PE lessons for safety reasons. If items cannot be removed, staff must take action. In most cases, this means removing the child from the PE lesson. If your child has recently had their ears pierced (within the last 6 weeks) we are aware that their earrings cannot be removed for this period. **In this instance only**, we will allow children to cover their earrings with a plaster or tape to make them safe. This should not be an on-going practice beyond 6 weeks. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced, we would urge you to do this in July at the start of the 6 week summer holiday.

School staff cannot be required to add or remove tape/plasters to children's ears. Staff cannot also not be required to remove children's earrings or keep them safe.

Some issues we have found with allowing children's earrings to be covered with tape/plasters are:

- Plasters/tape falling off before and during PE lessons meaning that earrings are now uncovered and unsafe
- Plasters and tape causing infection
- Plasters/tape getting caught in children's hair – this is painful to remove
- Plasters/tape not being provided from home resulting in school needing to provide these at a cost to school
- Significant numbers of children not being able to apply plasters/tape themselves resulting in staff needing to do this which wastes lesson time for all children.

Please also note that all jewellery **MUST** be removed for PE lessons – children must be able to do this themselves and staff are not allowed to keep items safe during PE lessons. Long hair must always be tied up for PE lessons.

PE days are as follows:

Year 6 have PE on a Monday and Tuesday
Year 5 have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday
Year 4 have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday
Year 3 have PE on a Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 2 have PE on a Wednesday and Friday
Year 1 have PE on a Monday and Friday
Reception have PE on a Friday

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Towle
Headteacher