

This guidance is taken directly from afPE's 'Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity'

### **Personal effects, including jewellery and cultural or religious adornments**

The below guidance, as with all procedures are only effective if applied consistently by all staff teaching PESSPA at the commencement of every SESSION.

- All personal effects should be removed. Staff should always give a verbal reminder to students and, where necessary, visually monitor the group and/or individuals. Particular vigilance may be required when dealing with body jewellery.
- If items cannot be removed, staff need to take action to try to make the situation safe. In most cases, this may mean adjusting the activity in some way or, where a risk assessment allows, making the item in question safe.

Earrings: Students unable to remove earrings should be required to make them safe by taping, front and back, which may offer a measure of protection. The taping should be sufficient to prevent the stud post penetrating the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received (e.g. from someone or from equipment such as a ball).

This taping may be done at home for younger children or prior to the lesson for older students. Staff are not required to remove or tape earrings for students.

Where taping is utilised, the teacher supervising the group maintains the legal responsibility to ensure the taping is effective for purpose. Where staff consider the taping to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, they will need to consider alternative involvement in the lesson for the student.

The use of retainers (flat studs that retain the piercing when earrings or studs are removed) is becoming more common as a form of acceptable substitution where total removal is not possible. Provided these are flat and cannot cause damage if a blow or ball hits the side of the head, the level of risk is clearly reduced *\*and staff will make the judgement on whether these need to be taped or not.*

*\*Added by Billinge St Aidan's CE Primary School January 2020*