



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

Physical Education Jewellery, Piercings and Personal Effects Safety Policy

Policy Owner: Head of PE

Approval Body: Senior Leadership Team / Local Governing Committee

Review Cycle: Annual

Next Review Date: September 2027

Summary of Academy Expectations

Pupils CAN:

- Participate fully when all jewellery and piercings have been removed.
- Continue learning in *non-competitive* practical situations until the piercing is healed. The piercing can be taped, but the pupil cannot do contact competitive sport. They will continue their PE lesson through alternative roles and responsibilities.

Pupils CANNOT:

- Wear earrings, nose studs or piercings during practical PE.
- Tape over jewellery as an alternative to removal. With the exception of a new piercing that *ideally* should happen during a summer break.
- Participate in competitive practical activity if jewellery remains in place.
- Use parental permission notes to override Academy safety requirements.

Lydiard Park Academy believes that safety is everyone's responsibility. By following this policy, we ensure that all pupils can engage in PE, School Sport and Physical Activity in the safest possible environment.



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1. Purpose

Lydiard Park Academy is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all pupils participating in Physical Education (PE), School Sport and Physical Activity.

This policy has been developed in line with the latest guidance from the Association for Physical Education (afPE) and reflects the Academy's legal duty of care to safeguard pupils and staff during all physical activities.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Minimise the risk of injury caused by jewellery and personal effects.
- Ensure a consistent approach across all PE lessons, clubs, fixtures and enrichment activities.
- Protect all pupils, staff and visitors from foreseeable harm.
- Support full participation in PE wherever possible while maintaining safe practice.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Curriculum PE lessons
- Extra-curricular sports clubs
- Sports fixtures and competitions
- Sports Day and enrichment activities
- Physical activity delivered by external coaches or providers
- Any activity taking place on or off the Academy site under the supervision of LPA staff

3. Legal and Professional Guidance

This policy reflects:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Department for Education health and safety expectations



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- Association for Physical Education (afPE) Safe Practice Guidance

afPE strongly recommends the removal of all personal effects before participation in physical activity to establish a safe working environment.

4. Jewellery and Personal Effects

4.1 Removal of Jewellery

All jewellery and personal effects must be removed before participating in any physical activity.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Earrings
- Nose studs
- Facial piercings
- Tongue piercings
- Body piercings
- Retainers
- Expanders
- Rings
- Bracelets
- Necklaces
- Smart watches and watches
- Any other item that may present a safety risk

Pupils are responsible for removing their jewellery independently before the lesson begins.

Members of staff will not remove jewellery for pupils.

4.2 Long Hair and Other Personal Effects

To minimise risk:



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- Long hair must be tied back securely.
- Nails must be kept at a safe length.
- Glasses should be secured where appropriate.
- Loose clothing or accessories that may create a hazard must be adjusted or removed.

5. Taping of Piercings

Lydiard Park Academy does **not** permit pupils to tape over piercings as an alternative to removal.

Current afPE guidance highlights that:

- Taping does not eliminate the risk of injury.
- Taping can create a false perception of safety.
- Risks of tearing, compression and impact injuries remain.
- Taping may become loose during activity.

Therefore, taping is not considered a suitable control measure and will not be accepted for participation in **competitive** practical PE activities.

6. Newly Pierced Ears or Piercings

The Academy strongly advises parents and carers that any new piercing should be scheduled at the start of the summer holiday wherever possible.

This allows sufficient healing time before returning to school and avoids disruption to PE participation.

Where a pupil has a newly pierced ear or piercing and is unable to remove it safely:

- The pupil will not take part in the *competitive* practical elements of PE.
- The pupil will remain in the lesson and complete an alternative learning role.
- The inability to participate practically does not exempt the pupil from attending PE.

7. Alternative Participation



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Where jewellery or piercings cannot be removed, pupils will still participate in the lesson through appropriate alternative roles.

Examples include:

- Coaching
- Officiating
- Umpiring
- Refereeing
- Scoring and timing
- Performance analysis
- Tactical observation
- Leadership tasks
- Written or digital theory activities
- Evaluation and feedback activities

LPA believes pupils should continue to learn during PE lessons even when practical participation is restricted.

8. Refusal to Remove Jewellery

If a pupil refuses to remove jewellery or piercings:

1. The member of staff will explain the health and safety requirement.
2. The pupil will not be permitted to participate in the practical aspects of the lesson.
3. The pupil will be allocated an appropriate alternative learning activity.
4. The incident may be recorded in line with the Academy's behaviour procedures where appropriate.

The decision of the supervising PE teacher regarding safe participation is final.

9. Parental Requests and Waivers

The Academy cannot accept parental permission slips, waivers, disclaimers or indemnity agreements as a substitute for safe practice.



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Parents cannot assume legal responsibility for injuries arising from a pupil participating in PE while wearing jewellery or piercings.

The Academy's duty of care remains in force at all times.

Consequently:

- Parental consent does not override health and safety requirements.
- Pupils wearing jewellery or piercings that cannot be removed will not participate in practical activity regardless of parental permission.

10. Religious and Cultural Items

Lydiard Park Academy recognises the importance of religious and cultural beliefs.

Where a religious or cultural item is worn:

- The Academy will seek a reasonable and proportionate solution.
- Risk assessments will be undertaken where appropriate.
- Discussions may take place with parents, carers and relevant faith representatives.

However, where a significant health and safety risk exists, safe practice requirements will take precedence.

In such circumstances, alternative participation opportunities will be provided.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

Pupils must:

- Arrive prepared for PE.
- Remove all jewellery before lessons.
- Tie long hair back.



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- Follow staff instructions regarding health and safety.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers should:

- Support the Academy's safety expectations.
- Encourage pupils to remove jewellery on PE days.
- Plan new piercings for holiday periods wherever possible.
- Reinforce the importance of safe participation.

PE Staff

PE staff will:

- Apply this policy consistently.
- Conduct lesson safety checks.
- Make appropriate adaptations where required.
- Provide alternative learning opportunities when practical participation is not possible.

Academy Leadership

The Academy will:

- Monitor implementation of this policy.
- Ensure consistency across departments and activities.
- Review procedures in line with national guidance.



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