



Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School, West Road, Watton, Norfolk, IP25 6AU

<http://watton.corvuseducation.com>

Tel: 01953 882669 Email: office@westfield.norfolk.sch.uk

CEO: Mr J Adams Executive Headteacher: Mrs H Kemp

24th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, children take part in PE at school, and we are proud of how they are developing their skills and attitudes in this subject area. They also have playtimes throughout the day where they take part in physical activities.

We have a PE kit which we ask children to wear for practical and safety reasons. This includes tying long hair back. As you know, PE kit is worn to school on PE days by children from Y1 to Y6 and children in reception change into their kits in school as part of their personal development learning. Schools have a duty of care to ensure pupils are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them.

We, however, have been made aware through the new 'Safe Practice in Physical Education, School sport and Physical activity' handbook, that earrings (and all jewellery) are to be removed and not just taped over. As the children play in school throughout the day, this would mean taking their earrings in and out themselves multiple times a day, which is not practical. Therefore, I have made the decision for safety reason, that **from 4th January 2023, no earrings should be worn to school.**

I appreciate some parents and children will be unhappy with this decision, but the legislation now states that teachers would be individually liable if a child wearing taped earrings were to be injured. The guidance states that taping 'would need to be sufficient to prevent the piercing penetrating, for example, the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received from someone or some item of equipment such as a ball.' The child would also be required to work within their own personal space. Therefore, I have decided it is best to say **no earrings in school.**

As reported in the Safe Practice handbook, a parent in another school has refused to remove a child's earrings for physical activities, so a student was excluded from PE and playground activities. An action was brought under the Human Rights Act 1998 on the basis of victimisation and deprivation of access to the National Curriculum. The court determined that the school was entitled to exclude the student from physical activity on the basis of health and safety. A claim that exclusion breached the European Convention on Human Rights was rejected.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kemp, Mrs Newby and Mr Hill



Registered in England & Wales No 10523505. Registered office: Manor Road, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2XR





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