



MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

PE and Jewellery Safety Statement

Information for parents and carers regarding school uniform and jewellery rules can be found in the school uniform policy on the school website. By sending a child to Merrylands Primary School and Nursery, parents and carers have implied their acceptance of these rules.

The wearing of jewellery, earrings and ear-studs (metal or plastic) is not permitted on safety grounds during physical education lessons and other sporting activities such as out of hours school learning or competitive fixtures. This includes body piercings such as tongue studs or belly button jewellery. These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings or studs and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe.

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery prohibits the wearing of jewellery, earrings and ear-studs in all aspects of physical activity as these could present a hazard to the wearer and to others. Pupils are encouraged to leave items of jewellery and earrings at home on days when they have physical education lessons. Children who do wear earrings to school on PE days will be expected to remove them by themselves. Staff are unable to help with this. Parents cannot withdraw their child from PE lessons, as PE is a statutory subject in schools until the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11) and all pupils are required to attend. The only exception to this is if the child has a statement of special educational needs that explicitly states that the child is unable to participate in PE lessons.

Newly pierced ears can take a period of up to six weeks before sleepers and studs can be removed. We encourage parents and carers that ears should be pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for earrings to be safely removed. Pupils who are not able to remove earrings (as these may be newly pierced) will not actively participate in physical education for their own and others' safety. In this circumstance, non-participation cards are available to ensure every child is included in a lesson or an alternative learning activity will be provided. The taping of jewellery can create a perception of safety and is not permitted. Tape can often fall off and does not reduce the risk of compression injury.

Parents and carers are encouraged to actively work with schools in helping to minimise disruption to the physical education curriculum. Parents and carers can help by ensuring that school guidance on jewellery is adhered to and that ears are pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow maximum healing time.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation and this statement has been written in line with these expectations to promote equality across the school. Merrylands Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.