

## ODBST Earrings & Jewellery Policy statement

### Purpose of the Policy Statement

The Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST) is committed to ensure that all pupils participate in PE through a safe environment. This trust-wide policy sets out clear expectations regarding the wearing of earrings and jewellery in order to reduce avoidable risks, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Association of Physical Education (afPE) guidance.

### General Rules for Jewellery across ODBST Schools

- Pupils may wear one pair of small, plain stud earrings during the school day, however the **school strongly discourages the wearing of all jewellery, at all times, for health and safety reasons.**
- Dangly earrings, hoops, necklaces, bracelets, rings, and smart watches are not permitted.
- Staff must not insert, remove, tape, or adjust earrings for pupils.

**Children can be injured during breaktimes or free play as easily as during PE lessons therefore we strongly recommend that children attend school without earrings to keep them safe at all times.**

### ODBST Schools will enforce the following:

#### 1. Earrings and Jewellery during PE

All earrings and jewellery must be removed for PE, school sports activities and physical extra-curricular clubs. Pupils unable to remove earrings cannot participate in practical PE or organised sporting activities. Safe keeping of removed items is the responsibility of the child.

#### 2. Newly Pierced Ears

New piercings require approximately six weeks before earrings can be safely removed. During this period, pupils who cannot remove earrings will complete non-practical PE activities.

#### 3. Taping Earrings

Taping earrings is not permitted.

*The British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in PE (BAALPE) guidance supports afPE and states that **earrings must be removed** and must **not be taped**, as taping “creates a perception of safety and is not recommended.” The wearing of jewellery increases the risk of injury significantly.*

#### 4. Religious and Cultural Jewellery

Health and Safety law takes precedence where risk exists. Pupils do not have an unlimited right to wear religious items during activities presenting a safety risk. Eg In contact sports

#### 5. Responsibilities

Parents must ensure children can remove their earrings for PE if they wear them to school. School staff will not be able to remove pupil earrings or jewellery.