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 in PE in 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 discourages the wearing of 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.

Guidance information:

1. **Earrings and Jewellery during PE and Physical Activity**

All earrings and jewellery must be removed for PE, school sports, active play, and physical extra-curricular activities. Pupils unable to remove earrings cannot participate in practical PE. 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.

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.