

Strike Lane Primary School



Establishing a Safe
Working Environment in PE

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It is our priority during a PE lesson to ensure that we establish a safe working environment.

Staff have a duty of care to ensure that students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them.

As a school we have systems to ensure that safety is our priority. Our guidance is based on the afPE Safe Practice document.

The following procedures are applied at the commencement of every lesson:

- All personal effects should be removed. Staff will always give a verbal reminder to students and, where necessary, visually monitor the group and/or individuals. Personal effects include items such as watches, jewellery and earrings.
- If **items cannot be removed**, for example earrings, staff will take action to **try to make the situation safe**. In most cases, this may mean adjusting the activity. The decision on the level of participation will be made by the person leading the session, e.g. class teacher.
- In all cases, where removal of personal effects is **not possible, strategies to enable safe participation in the lesson will be introduced**. Adaptations will be made in terms of how pupils take part in the practical aspects of the lesson. Pupils can contribute to group planning, designing and tactical discussions, but will have different tasks assigned to them during the practical elements of the lesson (eg individual skills practices, peer coaching, observation and feedback tasks, videoing others to analyse at a later stage, or officiating in a games context).
- It is our school policy that tape or plasters cannot be used to cover earrings.
- Staff cannot remove or tape earrings.
- The use of retainers (flat plastic studs that retain the piercing when earrings or studs are removed) is an acceptable substitution where total removal is not possible. Provided these are flat and cannot cause damage if a blow or ball hits the side of the head as this significantly reduces risk of injury. Staff cannot put these retainers in.
- The decision as to whether it is safe or possible to wear sensory aids such as glasses or hearing aids will be determined by the nature of the activity. Activities involving physical contact and full game situations may not be appropriate. Where sensory aids need to be worn for safe participation by the individual, then the staff, wherever possible, need to amend the activity or equipment in order to try and make participation while wearing a sensory aid as safe as possible for the wearer and others in groups.

The safety of our pupils is paramount; all decisions made will ensure that a safe working environment is always provided.