

9<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Parents,

**New guidance regarding the Safe Practice of Sport and PE in Schools.**

**Piercing Injuries**

Children and adults with pierced ears must take special precautions when playing sports. Having pierced ears poses a serious risk of injury when your child plays sports. A blow to the ear or face (even a light one) can drive the ear posts into the skin on the head and neck behind the ears, causing serious injuries. Tugging, pulling and running can pull studs out of the earlobes and rip the surrounding skin. This injury is extremely painful and can leave permanent scars.

Recent Health and Safety Guidance for schools states that all jewellery should be removed during PE lessons. We recognise that during a very recent piercing, items should not be taken out due to the closing up of the skin for up to a period of 6 weeks. For this reason, children who have had their ears pierced within the past 6 weeks will not be permitted to participate in PE and swimming until the initial period has passed. Meanwhile, if your child is not used to taking out their earrings then please ensure they practise doing so at home.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Robinson (Sports & PE Subject Leader and Year 4 Class Teacher)