

**Discovery Multi Academy Trust**  
Beechwood Primary Academy,  
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**Chief Executive Officer:** Mrs Alison Nettleship  
**Chair of the Board:** Mr David Tytherleigh

**DISCOVERY**  
*Multi Academy Trust*

July 2017

Dear parents and carers,

## **DISCOVERY MAT UNIFORM POLICY**

The Board of Trustees have recently agreed the Uniform Policy for Discovery Multi Academy Trust. The main change to the policy concerns the wearing of jewellery in school:

**“For health and safety reasons, all pupils are required to remove earrings during PE lessons [...] Children may not wear jewellery to school (except for small studs, which must be 5mm in diameter or smaller, and watches) other than for religious or cultural reasons. Children in Foundation may not wear earrings in view of the physical aspects of their learning.”**

The ‘Safe Practice in Physical Education and Sport’ document is nationally accredited advice from the Association for Physical Education. This document, in addition to Devon Pedpass Safety Advice and the ‘Health, Safety and Well-Being advice for Academies’, states that all body piercings constitute an increased risk of injury in physical activity:

“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 earlobe”.

Having reviewed this guidance carefully and with all children’s safety in mind, earrings **must now be removed for P.E, not simply taped over**. We would ideally encourage pupils to leave earrings at home on days when they have physical education lessons, especially if they are too young to remove them themselves. Pupils who are not able to remove earrings should not actively participate in physical education for their own and other’s safety or may partake in an adapted part of the lesson. In this circumstance a pupil will be asked to undertake the role of coach, official or other learning activity that is relevant. At other times, we ask that pupils wear small studs (5mm or smaller) to avoid injury during play activities.

I can appreciate that newly pierced ears can take a period of up to six weeks before sleepers and studs can be removed and ideally pupils who have their ears pierced should do so at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for earrings to be safely removed.

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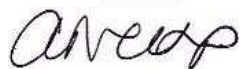


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I would ask for your co-operation to actively work with us in helping to minimise any disruption to the physical education curriculum for your child and to ensure safety for us all. Our academies cannot accept any disclaimers from parents alleging the removal of responsibility from teachers in the event of an injury occurring while their child takes part wearing jewellery; such indemnities have no legal status.

I appreciate that this is a change in the policy and would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Nettleship  
Chief Executive Officer  
Discovery Multi Academy Trust