



PPE in PE, Sports and Physical Activities Policy

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Statement of intent

The school recognises that the wearing of PPE cannot guarantee complete protection from injury, but it can often mitigate the severity of an injury and reduce a high-risk situation to one of reasonable or acceptable risk. In order to adequately protect pupils during PE, sports and physical activity, the school will ensure the appropriate PPE is always worn and that parents are sufficiently made aware of where they have a responsibility to provide PPE for their child. This policy does not cover other PE uniform requirements such as those relating to clothing, footwear and personal effects – those are dealt with in the school's PE Policy and Uniform Policy.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2013) 'National curriculum in England: physical education programmes of study'
- Association for Physical Education (2020) 'Safe Practice: in PE, School Sport and Physical Activity'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The school is responsible for:

- Ensuring parents receive critical information about the importance of wearing PPE.
- Ensuring parents are sufficiently aware of the required PPE for their child's education and activities.
- Where appropriate, providing PPE for pupils where the amount and cost of kit is extensive or for reasons of convenience.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving this policy biennially and ensuring it is suitable to adequately keep pupils safe.
- Ensuring that an effective system is in place for PE, sports and physical activities that anticipates and manages risks appropriately.

The Subject Lead for PE is responsible for:

- Risk assessing each PE work area and activity that forms part of the school's curriculum and wider offering.
- Identifying what PPE is required to adequately protect pupils and manage risks.
- Effectively informing pupils on the rules and systems in place to keep them safe and mitigate risk.
- Ensuring the effective implementation of this policy.

PE staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring pupils only take part in PE, sports and physical activities with the appropriate PPE being worn.

- Modifying lessons appropriately to reflect instances where a pupil or group of pupils do not have the appropriate PPE.
- Ensuring pupils behave sensibly and responsibly during PE, sports and physical activities.

Parents are responsible for:

- The purchase of PPE required or strongly advised for their child's education.
- Following the school's expectations relating to the use of PPE.
- Ensuring their child attends school with the required or advised PPE.
- Contacting the school if they have any difficulty in obtaining the required or advised PPE.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Bringing the correct PPE with them to school on the relevant days.
- Wearing PPE correctly at all times in line with the school's requirements.
- Behaving sensibly during PE, sports and physical activities and not putting themselves or others at risk.

3. Communication with parents

The school recognises that it is insufficient to tell pupils to bring PPE into school, or expect pupils alone to inform their parents of the need to provide PPE. The headteacher will ensure the school's PPE procedures make clear where the use of PPE is necessary or strongly advised, and that these are effectively communicated to parents to encourage them to purchase the necessary PPE to allow their children to safely take part in PE, sports and physical activities as part of the school curriculum.

Communication to parents will include information about the range and quality of PPE relevant to the school curriculum and any additional sports or activities as appropriate. Communication will also include how staff will determine whether it is safe to continue or if it is necessary to amend a planned session where pupils do not have the required PPE. Parents will be made aware of what PPE the school will provide and what they will be required to provide for their child.

This policy and the school's PPE recommendations and requirements will be made easily available to parents via the school website. Any changes to the policy will be communicated to parents with sufficient notice and reasoning behind the changes. Parents will be encouraged to contact the school if they have any difficulty in obtaining the required PPE. Where the school has made PPE a requirement, it will consider how it can support parents to obtain the PPE where they are facing difficulty.

4. Recommended and required PPE

Where the school decides to adopt procedures making the usage of any PPE mandatory, the school will follow its duty of care obligations by ensuring that all pupils participating have access to the PPE required.

PPE belonging to the school that is made available to year groups or individual pupils is inspected by PE staff weekly to ensure it is in good condition and suitable for use. PPE that is damaged and unsuitable for use will be repaired, replaced or disposed of in line with the manufacturer's

instructions. Such PPE will be clearly labelled to indicate it is not to be used until the appropriate corrective action has been taken.

The Subject Lead for PE will determine the appropriate PPE requirements and recommendations, considering the level of competition, intensity, the age of pupils, the relevant governing body of sport's recommendations, and the risks presented during a session. The school's PPE requirements and recommendations for PE lessons, school fixtures, team practices, intra-school matches are outlined below:

Activity	School's PPE requirements
<u>Football</u>	Mandatory: <u>None</u> Recommended/allowed: <u>Shinpads, mouthguards</u>
<u>Short/Mini Tennis</u>	Mandatory: <u>None</u> Recommended/allowed: <u>Sports goggles, mouthguards</u>
<u>Cricket</u>	Mandatory: <u>Helmets with a face guard</u> Recommended/allowed: <u>Pads, gloves, abdominal protector (box)</u>
<u>Table tennis</u>	Mandatory: <u>None</u> Recommended/allowed: <u>Sports goggles</u>

Where pupils are involved in competition regulated and organised by a sports governing body, the governing body's PPE requirements and recommendations will be followed – these are outlined in [Appendix A](#).

5. Correct use of PPE

Pupils will be informed about the purpose, functions and limitations of PPE. Demonstrations of how to correctly wear the PPE will be provided alongside information on its appropriate use. Pupils with SEND will be provided with additional support in line with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy to ensure PPE is worn correctly and is suitable for use.

Staff members will check at the start of a session that all pupils have the required PPE. Where a pupil does not have the required PPE in line with this policy and any accompanying risk assessment, staff will modify the session in order to enable safe participation without the required PPE. Modifications the school considers will include:

- Providing PPE items where possible and practical for those without.
- Grouping pupils together who do not have the required PPE and assigning them tasks that are safe in the absence of the PPE.
- Where it is only a small number of pupils without PPE, allowing them to take part in as much of the lesson as possible, and assigning them a different activity during parts of the lesson where the absence of PPE presents a risk.
- Rotating groups to partake in different activities, with some activities requiring PPE and others not requiring PPE.
- Changing the planned activity for all pupils so that pupils without PPE are not put at risk.

Pupils will not be excluded from curriculum lessons on the basis that they do not have the correct PPE – it is the duty of staff members to provide a safe playing environment and make any necessary amendments.

Any instances of pupils disregarding the school's PPE requirements or using PPE inappropriately will be dealt with in line with the Behaviour Policy. Pupils endangering themselves or others will be removed from the lesson or activity.

6. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed biennially by the Senior Leadership Team, and any changes will be communicated to all relevant members of staff, parents and pupils. This policy will also be reviewed in light of any PE or physical activity incidents involving PPE or where the absence of PPE may have been a factor in the incident.

All PE staff and any other staff members involved in supervising pupils during PE, sports and physical activities will be required to familiarise themselves with this policy.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is **March 2024**.

APPENDIX A

Sport Governing Body PPE Competition Requirements

The Subject Leader for PE will keep up-to-date with the appropriate governing body of sport requirements and guidance to maintain an awareness of the recommended and mandatory PPE, and will respond to any changes as soon as possible.

Governing body of sport	PPE requirements
England and Wales Cricket Board	Helmets with a face guard, pads, gloves, and an abdominal protector (box) are mandatory when batting against a hard ball.
England Hockey	Specialist protection for goalkeepers is mandatory; mouth guards and shin/ankle pads are recommended
England Lacrosse	Specialist protection for goalkeepers is mandatory; mouth guards are mandatory for representative matches.
Football Association	Shin pads are mandatory in practice and training at all levels of participation.
Rugby Football League	Mouth guards are recommended, shoulder pads and padded helmets are permitted. Glasses should not be worn by pupils aged under eight.
England Rugby (RFU)	Mouth guards are recommended; head guards or scrum caps and soft shoulder padding is permitted.
British Cycling	A correctly fitted helmet is recommended.
Scoot GB	Pupils riding a scooter at speed in a playground are recommended to wear a helmet, elbow pads, knee pads and gloves.
Futsal	Shin pads are recommended for all players.