



Jewellery & Body Piercing Policy

October 2015

Brook House Junior School
Policy on body Piercing and the wearing of Jewellery

The Governors of Brook House have a responsibility for the Health and Safety of pupils engaged in school activities. Consequently the Governors take the view that there is a risk associated with the wearing of jewellery within physical education lessons and related out of hours activities, and the elimination of that risk can be achieved by the removal of all jewellery whenever possible.

The school is guided in this policy by the ‘Jewellery and body piercing guidelines’ produced by Sheffield City Council.

As a school our Policy is:

- Jewellery such as rings, bangles, necklaces and hanging earrings should not be worn in school. Ear studs are allowed.
- No jewellery where possible should be worn for physical education lessons or out of hours physical activities.
- In certain circumstances children may not be able to remove a stud from their ear. If this is the case the jewellery must be made safe. This may take the form of taping the ear.
- If the jewellery cannot be made safe then the pupil cannot participate.

Making jewellery safe:

- Under no circumstances should any teacher tape jewellery for a pupil. By doing so they expose themselves to accusations of assault.
- It is the responsibility of the child to bring any tape to be applied.
- If a tape is applied and the child is participating in the lesson the teacher becomes responsible for ensuring the tape stays effective.
- If jewellery is made safe by taping the teacher must still question whether what is planned can be done safely and where it is deemed not safe then the child must not participate. The school believes teachers should not have to change the whole of their lesson if a minority of pupils have taped jewellery. It is unrealistic when a teacher has already prepared a lesson.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff should not assist any pupil in the removal, or replacement of jewellery prior to, or following, a physical education lesson or out of hours activity.

In all circumstances with jewellery if the teacher is aware of the jewellery and does not ask for the removal, or making safe if appropriate, and an accident occurs then the teacher could be culpable as s/he has failed to protect the child.

Security of Jewellery:

- The safe keeping of any items of jewellery are not the teacher's or school's responsibility.
- If a teacher does use a safe box or locked drawer or any storage where individual items can be stored it is at the owners risk and not the responsibility of the teacher.

Body Piercing checks:

- Teachers must not make checks for body piercing other than that which is normally visible as routine. Any other action could be deemed as assault.
- Teachers must constantly remind pupils to check that they have safely removed all their jewellery / items of body piercing.
- If a child does not admit to body piercing that is not visible and this piercing is subsequently spotted by the teacher then the child must be asked to remove it.
- If the jewellery cannot be reasonably removed then it must be made safe or the pupil should not be allowed to continue with the activity.

Letters of Absolution/Indemnity forms:

- Brook House School cannot accept assurances from parents, which seek to absolve responsibility for injury from the wearing of jewellery during P.E and out of hours activities.
- Parental letters of indemnity or disclaimer have no legal standing in reality in that no adult, including a parent, may remove an individual's right to make a claim in law at a later date. Neither may a child (under the age of 18) give up her / his right to make a claim in later life. Whatever documents may be signed by a parent, the child, on becoming an adult, may retrospectively make an independent claim for damages up to three years after attaining adulthood (twenty one years of age).

Spectacles and hearing aids:

- The school believes there is a balance to be achieved between potential for injury through wearing spectacles or hearing aids, and the extent to which not wearing them would restrict the pupil's involvement in the activity.
- It is appropriate that the school discusses with parents/carers either that spectacles / hearing aids will continue to be worn for PE and out of hours related activities, or whether they will be removed. It is impossible to prevent every potential accident, however risks will be minimised by reasonable professional conduct.
- Where it is not possible for pupils to wear their glasses (e.g during swimming lessons) pupils should be well informed of the geography of the area they are working in.

Nails

- Children are not allowed to wear nail varnish in school.
- Children are not allowed to wear false nails or have acrylic nails fitted. They are potentially dangerous towards other children.

Medical Jewellery:

- It may be that at some times the school has children who have medical conditions that requires them to wear medical jewellery. Such items provide essential information in the event of the pupil having an accident or requiring medical treatment relating to their condition. A medical alert bracelet must be secured in such a way that it does not present a hazard to the pupil himself or herself, or to any other pupil. They should be covered by sweatbands secured by adhesive tape.

Exceptions:

Exceptions to this guidance and any school policy may be made under very specific circumstances. The Head Teacher is fully responsible for the discretion of such exceptions.

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