



Hallam Fields  
Junior School

Growing together. Learning together. Achieving together

## Hallam Fields Junior School Jewellery in School, Including Body Piercings Policy

### LA GUIDELINES

#### **Introduction**

As the fashion for body piercing becomes more prevalent the LA is increasingly receiving calls relating not only to the wearing of earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets and watches but also nose rings, eyebrow piercings and other more exotic piercings in schools. Whilst the LA would not wish to interfere with an individual school's policy on uniform and dress code, these guidelines are published to help individual schools make informed decisions on the above with safety considerations in mind and to provide individual Headteachers with LA guidelines to back up their decisions. This has often proved useful in dealing with parents or guardians who may not be fully aware of the reasons behind decisions relating to the wearing of jewellery. This guidance aims to extend the guidance previously sent out in August 1998.

#### **Risk Assessment - General**

In making any decision on whether or not jewellery and piercings are to be allowed in the school the following issues should be considered when carrying out a risk assessment.

1. Is there a potential for injury to the wearer due to inadvertent contact of jewellery with other people, clothing, machinery etc. The extent of the injury is likely to vary from potentially major if the contact leads to contact with machinery to minor e.g. tearing or piercing of flesh if the contact is with other people. Clearly the risk is greater with sleeper/ring type jewellery, and projecting/dangling jewellery.
2. Risk to other people. This is generally low except in activities such as PE or at break times where injury could occur due to contact with jewellery worn by another person.
3. Risk from Covering Jewellery. There is a potential risk of injury to the wearer from removing tape used to cover jewellery if the tape pulls the jewellery as it is removed. Some people have an allergic reaction to plasters and this would also need to be considered.

#### **Specific Lessons**

PE, Swimming and Drama

The wearing of jewellery in PE, Swimming and Drama constitutes a hazard as injuries can be caused to the wearer through the jewellery being accidentally caught or knocked. Similarly contact with jewellery can cause injuries to a third party. The LA would therefore advise that all jewellery and body piercings should be removed prior to PE. Where removal is not possible then taping up may be an option. Whilst this is not a major problem for items such as rings, there are certain drawbacks with other forms of jewellery, (e.g. earrings and other piercings) which need to be considered in any risk assessment of whether taping up is acceptable. Taping up would only generally apply to stud and small sleeper type earrings. If however the stud was caught hard enough it could still pierce the tape and penetrate the skin behind the ear. Removal of tape from either stud or small sleeper type jewellery, if not done carefully can cause an injury in itself and some pupils are allergic to 'elastoplast' type tape. Taping up of jewellery for swimming is not considered an appropriate safeguard due to the risk of the tape coming off in the water and causing a choking hazard to other swimmers. Lip and tongue piercings are considered high risk for PE and swimming activities due to the risk of swallowing the jewellery. These items cannot be adequately protected and must therefore be removed prior to the lesson.

#### **Removal/Non Removal of Items**

In certain circumstances it may not be possible to remove jewellery. Certain types of piercing can only be removed using specialist equipment. Also, the removal and subsequent replacement of jewellery from a fresh piercing or piercing that has not fully healed can lead to infection.

Where it has been decided by a school that removal of jewellery for an activity is the safe option/school rule and removal of jewellery is not possible for the reasons above, then the pupil should sit out those activities

or only be involved in the lesson in a way which avoids direct physical participation. This option is clearly a last resort and if it is likely to lead to a long-term problem (e.g. due to the time it takes for a piercing to heal) then a mutually acceptable resolution with the parents/carers should be sought. This has proved to be a particular problem when pupils have piercings at times other than the summer break and so the piercing has not healed properly when they come into school. Schools expecting pupils to remove jewellery for high-risk activities will need to ensure parents/carers are clearly advised of this fact and the implications for the pupil in relation to these activities should they attend with jewellery that cannot be removed for whatever reason. It would be sensible to remind parents/carers of these requirements periodically using a letter to all parents/carers, school newsletter etc. It would also be sensible to advise all parents/carers thinking of allowing their children to have piercings to ensure these are done at the start of the summer holiday. This information could also be included in the school prospectus.

### **Other Issues**

Linked body jewellery, i.e. chains linking different pieces of jewellery (e.g. nose to mouth and including links between finger rings) is not considered safe for any activities in school and should not be allowed. It is recognised that certain religions/cultures wear certain types of piercing as part of their beliefs. Where this is known to be an issue the school will need to negotiate with the parents/carers an appropriate way forward. It would however be explained to parents/carers that safety is the paramount concern and therefore the school policy should be adhered to in relation to the wearing and removal where necessary of jewellery. The school should not seek or accept as an alternative to the removal of jewellery, a parent's/carer's assurance that they will not hold the school liable in the event of an accident/incident. The parent/carer cannot accept liability for injury to the pupils during school activities. This is not allowed by UK or European legislation or Civil Law.

### **Hallam Fields Junior School Policy**

It has been agreed that at Hallam Fields Junior School, the only acceptable jewellery to be worn other than a wristwatch is one pair of small studs (one per ear). No rings, necklaces or other jewellery will be allowed at any time, unless based on religious grounds which is discussed and agreed with the Headteacher.

It is the school's policy that earrings cannot be worn at school for reasons of health and safety. However, children with pierced ears may wear one pair of studs (one in each ear). No other facial studs are allowed in school. For the same safety reasons no other jewellery should be worn at school apart from a wristwatch. For PE lessons and swimming, the children must remove their ear studs. It may be best therefore, that on PE and Swimming days, ear studs are removed and left at home as there is less chance of them being lost or mislaid. Exceptions cannot be made for recently pierced ears, so it is advisable that all parents/guardians thinking of allowing their children to have ear piercings, ensure that these are done at the start of the summer holidays. The use of tape to cover earrings is not permitted. Under no circumstances will school staff be allowed to help remove ear studs being worn by a pupil.

Approval Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Review Date: Autumn 2025