



Charnock Hall Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Carter Hall Road,
Sheffield
S12 3HS
0114 2396083
enquiries@charnockhallacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr P M Burgess - NPQH

Monday, 14 September 2020

Dear Parent and carer,

Re: Change to Uniform Policy regarding jewellery and earrings from September 2019

On behalf on the Academy Governing Board (AGB) and the Senior Leadership of CHPA, I understand that the contents of this letter may provoke some response, but feel that this is important to ensure the ongoing safety and well-being of all your children.

A decision has been made that to ensure the future well-being and safety of all pupils **from September 2019**, the wearing of earrings will not be allowed at any time. Currently, pupils are allowed to wear only studs, which unfortunately, is not being adhered to by everyone, which puts themselves and others at risk.

This change will mean that pupils will only be allowed to wear a watch.

Bracelets, rings, necklaces and any other jewellery must not be worn at any time, unless required for medical purposes.

Before making this decision, I have undertaken discussions with the PTA, a number of parents, members of the AGB, the Pupil Council (which has pupil representatives from each class) and the whole school in assembly this morning, to explain the following information;

- PE is a planned, controlled, closely-managed and supervised activity, with a low-risk of injury due to the diligence and care taken by staff. However, we then realised that playtimes and lunchtimes were a much more high-risk time of the day due to the play being less-structured and more free-flow. So in effect, no-earrings policy, whilst valid and proper for PE, is more relevant to play, lunch and other times of limited structures.
- Pupils have access to climbing equipment via trim trails on KS1 and KS2 playground, which, if not used carefully by pupils, can result in injury, even though this is controlled at all playtimes by a staff member. Unfortunately, there has been a case (not at CHPA) of a child slipping on climbing equipment, with their earring become entangled, and the resulting injury being extremely distressing for pupils and staff.
- Whilst getting ready for a PE session, only last week, 1 pupil had a serious issue, where the back of their earring became stuck in the back of the earlobe. This caused a great deal of pain and upset for the pupil, with the parent being called to address the issue.
- Pupils are missing learning opportunities with PE sessions as they have had ears pierced and cannot take them out for 6 weeks.
- Some pupils are not only wearing hooped earrings but some are also wearing rings, bracelets and other forms of jewellery too, which is not in keeping with the expectations or policy at CHPA.

This decision is not on the grounds of 'Health and Safety', rather with the view to keeping children safe and preventing the sort of accident that has occurred elsewhere. Clearly we (pupils included) were shocked to hear of this accident, but the only way to prevent this from happening to a child at CHPA is to have a policy requiring no earrings.

I am sure some of you will be concerned about the healing-rate of holes and the time needed to heal. The clearest information I have been able to find has been from a company called 'Inverness' who are an American company, with a vested interest is being pro-earring, and give the advice that removal before 6 weeks is not advisable and not to go more than 24 hours as re-healing can occur.

Therefore, taking both points individually:

6 weeks: This takes the time, counting from today Wednesday 17th July 2019, to Wednesday 4th September 2019, there are 7 weeks. I know from speaking to pupils and parents, that piercings are generally not done in term-time. This was in respect of the previously policy stance and is fantastic – thank you. To support you in making the adjustment for September, this also means that if you were intending for your child to have their ear pierced in the Summer Break, if you did it by next Wednesday 24th July 2019, your child's ears would have still have 6 weeks to heal, ahead of the return in September.



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24 Hours: Assuming the maximum school day is 7.30am (Breakfast Club) to 4.30pm (Some afterschool club finishes) this only makes 9 hours without an earring. So re-inserting at home will not allow the holes to re-heal after the 6-week period.

<http://invernesscorp.com/the-best-way-to-care-for-a-new-ear-piercing/>

I appreciate that there is other advice out there, but was the clearest advice found.

The decision to move towards a no-earring policy, as an amendment to the Uniform Policy, will be effective from Wednesday 4th September 2019.

If your child does come to school with earrings in from 4.9.19, we will:

- Ask the child to remove them if they can
- If they cannot, we will contact you and ask you to come into school to remove them
- Until earrings are removed, keep them inside during play and lunch to minimise risk to them

Unfortunately, the covering-up of earrings is not acceptable or viable, as tape and plasters do come un-stuck.

I sincerely hope you understand and support CHPA in this matter, as we only have the safety and well-being at the heart of this decision.

Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Mr P M Burgess
Headteacher