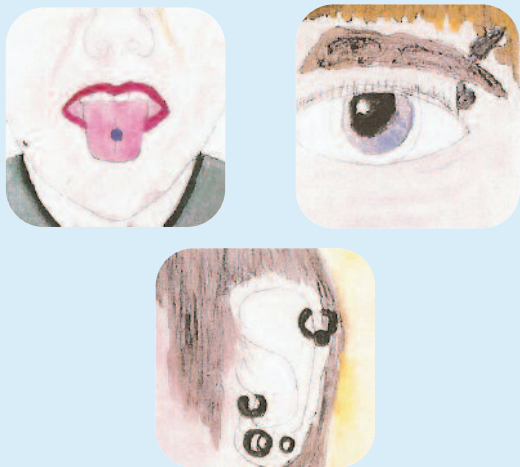


Body Piercing Safety



- It's important you talk to your doctor before considering a piercing if you are pre-disposed to any medical condition or taking prescribed medication.
- Do not get a piercing if you think you might be pregnant.
- Do not get a piercing if you are using drugs or alcohol.
- Body piercing can hurt - piercers aren't allowed to give you an anaesthetic injection.
- Anaesthetic creams or sprays shouldn't be used because there may be possible side effects.
- If you think you've been asked to remove clothing unnecessarily or inappropriately, let a responsible adult know, or contact the organisations in this leaflet.
- Remember** – you must find out your medical history from your parents/carers or GP and inform the piercer **before you have a body piercing.**



IF IN DOUBT, WALK OUT!

If you have any worries or questions about body piercing practices or premises, you can contact the Health Protection Service on (0114) 2734653.

Further info

@

www.danaid.com
www.sheffield.gov.uk

(follow the links for Safeguarding Children or Health Protection)

The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board, Dan Aid and the Sheffield City Council Health Protection Service would like to thank the following people for contributing to this leaflet:

The staff and students at:

The City School a Specialist Business and Enterprise College

Handsworth Grange School a Specialist Sports College

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Sheffield Park Academy specialism in Business and Enterprise

Thou Art Body Piercing Studios

Meg Munn MP

Bury and Rochdale Council



THOU ART
Thou Art



DP4693

Body Piercing Check it out!

Is it safe?
Is it right for you?
Do you know the facts?

What is Body Piercing?

Body piercing is when a hollow needle is pushed through the skin and underlying tissue, making a hole through which jewellery is inserted. Some people have different parts of their body pierced, including ears, eyebrows, lips, tongue, navel, nipples and genital areas. In today's society body piercing has become fashionable and attractive to young people, but having a piercing is a minor surgical procedure which involves breaking the skin and because of this, there is always a risk of infection and/or injury.

Check out the info!

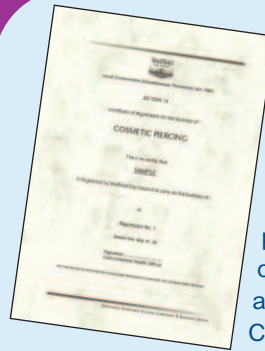
Before you make a decision, it's important that you check out the info. Here are some tips about what to look for:-

The health risks will be reduced if you go to a **registered piercer** (you can get a list of these from the websites listed at the back of this leaflet).

Make sure they ask for, and you provide, your medical history before the piercing – based on the information that you, or your parents/carers provide, the piercer should have sufficient expertise to advise whether the piercing is right for you.

Are they registered with the local Council?

Body piercers have a duty to look after the health and safety of their customers. You may be surprised to know that there are few specific laws applying to the practice of body piercing or to the premises/studios where piercings are carried out. Sheffield City Council requires premises to register under



Section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – this means the premises have to meet certain standards and are inspected regularly. The premises must display a certificate stating that they are registered with Sheffield City Council. The Sheffield Health Protection Service also

has a Code of Practice to guide practitioners towards safer practice.

Body piercers should not pierce anyone under the age of 16 without parental/carer's consent.

Make sure a registered piercer is doing your piercing!

To help the body piercer comply with the law and to make sure you're going to a responsible piercer, you should take with you some proof of age/identity (eg passport or PASS scheme ID card) or alternatively take along a responsible adult.

Check out the risks!

It's important that you know the facts.

Possible health risks include:-

- Ⓒ allergic reactions (to jewellery metals and/or antiseptics)
- Ⓒ severe swelling and inflammation around the piercing site
- Ⓒ jewellery embedding or migrating
- Ⓒ scarring
- Ⓒ excessive bleeding (if blood vessels are pierced)

- Ⓒ piercing of cartilage leading to deformity infection, blood poisoning/septicaemia
- Ⓒ blood borne infections such as HIV/Hepatitis

Things do go wrong!
Infection Bleeding
Embedding Scarring
Swelling

REMEMBER – NEVER ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT A BODY PIERCING YOURSELF

Check out the premises!

- Ⓒ Is the piercing studio clean?
- Ⓒ Is there a separate area for the piercing procedure?
- Ⓒ Are there hand-washing facilities?
- Ⓒ Is there an autoclave to sterilise equipment?
- Ⓒ Are they using single-use disposable needles?
- Ⓒ Is the piercer clean?
They must wear a clean or disposable apron, change their gloves regularly and wear clean clothing.
- Ⓒ Do they provide advice and aftercare?
Piercers should give you appropriate advice on how to take care of your piercing.

