

Personal Appearance, Clothing, Pocket Money and Allowances Policy

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Regulations and Standards:

The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015:

- Regulation 10 - Health and well-being standard
- Regulation 11 - The positive relationships standard

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1. Personal Appearance:

Each HND Children's Care Ltd child's placement plan should show how their personal hygiene needs are being addressed; with a view to encouraging and supporting them to maintain a positive and healthy lifestyle.

In the absence of such a plan, the following must be adhered to:

- Personal hygiene products and services may only be obtained from reputable, professional and suitably qualified providers.
- Toiletries and sanitary requirements for young ladies are paid for by the home. Usually,



children either buy them with the weekly shop or tell staff what they need.

- Children in our homes do not share toiletries under any circumstances and keep their own toiletries in their room if they so wish.
- Where children have special needs or there are healthcare concerns regarding their hair or skin, specialist or professional advice must be sought, and recommended treatment provided.
- Children must be provided with combs, brushes, oils, shampoos, creams and other hair or skin care products suitable to their needs, age and understanding.
- Children's daily routine should include opportunities, with support, if necessary, to cleanse themselves and brush and / or comb their hair.
- Children's hair must be cut and styled by reputable hairdressers or stylists.
- Where a child requests, or it seems appropriate for a child to have a hairstyle or skincare product which may significantly change their appearance, the manager / supervisor and social worker should be consulted before a decision is taken.
- If possible, children should be offered counselling and support on the underlying issues and education about the health risks of such products.
- Children who need or choose to shave or remove facial or other body hair should be supported to do so and given allowances for the purchase of suitable oils, creams or shaving materials.

2. Body Piercing, Tattoos etc.:

It is acknowledged that body piercing, and tattoos is a form of self-expression and fashion, and that many children will experiment with it or choose to use it.

It is illegal for tattooists to tattoo anyone under 18 years old, even with parental consent.

For the vast majority of piercings, there is no legal age operating throughout most of the UK. This means that things like ear, nose, lip, tongue or bellybutton piercings, for example, are legal, regardless of age. This is the general rule, but there are some notable exceptions. There are age restrictions for piercings to genitals. Only people aged 16 or over are allowed to have their genitals pierced, but the definition of "genitals" is a little different for males and females. For boys, the actual genitals are the only parts covered by the law, so nipple piercings are allowed. However, for girls the nipples are also classed as genitals by the law, so they cannot be pierced until the age of 16. This is classed as indecent assault on the part of the person conducting the piercing.

Children who express an interest in body piercing or tattoos should be treated on a case-by-case basis depending on their age and level of understanding, but on principle, staff should discourage them, pointing out the possible implications and healthcare risks, for example, from unsafe materials, needles etc.

Under no circumstances may HND Children's Care Ltd staff encourage or give consent for children to have their bodies pierced or tattooed.



Children should be informed that it is illegal for tattooists to tattoo them, even with parental consent; if they appear determined, consideration should be given to making the tattooist aware of the age of the child. If children are likely to use materials to tattoo themselves, consideration should be given to confiscating them. If children appear determined to have their bodies pierced, they should be asked to discuss the matter with their parent(s) and social worker beforehand.

Whether consent is given or not, children cannot be prevented from being pierced.

If they continue to be determined, staff should ensure that measures used for piercing are as safe and hygienic as possible; preferably undertaken by a reputable person.

Piercings may not be undertaken or in any way supported by staff.

If necessary, staff must confiscate any materials / equipment which may be used for it.

If a child does allow their body to be pierced or tattooed, the social worker must be informed and asked to decide whether to notify the parents.

3. Pocket Money:

Giving pocket money creates the opportunity to tutor young people about saving and spending thoughtfully, making choices and saving up for things they want.

There will be occasions when the staff team will need to let children make mistakes when they spend their money and may also, on occasions need to discourage them from buying things. If there are concerns about the manner in which children are spending their money, these concerns will be discussed with the child and if there are serious risks, the arrangements for giving money will be reviewed.

Children will receive pocket money once a week. How much they receive will depend on their age.

The giving of pocket money will be recorded as required and signed for by the child. Pocket Money can be spent as the child wishes and is normally given directly to the child. If a risk assessment states that this may lead the child to place themselves at risk, this amount can be given in small amounts throughout the week. The manager and the social worker must agree to this action.

Pocket money can be sanctioned, usually as reparation towards a breakage, for example, a broken window or damaged furniture. No more than two thirds of pocket money can be taken as reparation.

Children will be given guidance on how to manage their money and understand that there will be a need to wait for further money once it has been spent.

4. Clothing Allowance:



When the child first arrives an itinerary of their clothing will be instigated. An emergency clothing grant may be issued if a child does not have the required amount of clothing. This grant is at the manager's discretion. Sometimes social services will give the child a further clothing grant, but this must be arranged with the child's allocated social worker.

Children can exercise choice in the clothes that they buy. Children are allocated a clothing allowance of a minimum of £15.00 per week which is logged on the child's records, however.

Generally, staff are expected to support the children in shopping for their clothes.

Clothes are purchased through normal shopping arrangements. To assist children in making these choices they will always be supported by care staff. If a child refuses to purchase an essential item; for example, a winter coat / pair of shoes, staff may, with the manager's permission, use this allowance to buy the winter coat / pair of shoes.

All children are supported in accessing retail outlets where a variety of clothing is available to meet their cultural, ethnic, racial and religious requirements.

5. Other Amounts or Special Requests:

Children are encouraged to complete a "wish list" of what they would like for Birthday and Christmas and Festival presents. There is a set budget for this, and staff will try to buy items from the "wish list".

Children, if they have a special event, or have a hobby that needs equipment, or they would like an expensive item are encouraged to bring this request to the manager. We never want to see our children 'go without' and will always try, if reasonable, to honour requests.

Semi-independence allowances (Aged 16-18+) are not guaranteed or automatic they are agreed between the child, social worker, and the manager. This is a tailor-made package to suit each child's needs and abilities.

6. Recreation Money:

This is a weekly amount, the same for all children.

This allowance is used for activities that the children would like to do in the following week. This can be a range of activities and may be subsidised by HND Children's Care Ltd by prior arrangement. Recreation money can also be used to buy magazines, CDs, books, and so forth. Most hobbies and sporting activities will be paid for by HND Children's Care Ltd not by the children.



The week's activities for the children are usually agreed at a house meeting so that the home's staff, and indeed children, can budget for the week.

End.