

## Dan Aid: Body Piercing

A Guide to Using the Dan Aid Teaching Resource Pack

The logo for Dan Aid is presented within a white, semi-circular shape on a black background. The text "dan" is in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, "aid." is also in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a small, realistic-looking pearl earring serving as the period.

dan  
aid.

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# Safeguarding Children in Body Piercing.

Over the past four years, the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board has supported Dan Aid in its campaign to raise awareness about the risks associated with body piercing, following the death of 17 year old Daniel Hindle in 2002.



We recognise how popular body piercing and tattooing has become but, as the practice of body piercing is currently unregulated, young people may be at risk of harm. For this reason, we have worked in partnership with Dan Aid and a range of professionals, drawing on local expertise from PSHE teachers, school nurses, the Council's Health Protection Service and the Chair of the Tattoo and Piercing Industry, to develop awareness and educational materials, so that children and young people in Sheffield receive impartial information about body piercing and the potential health risks, enabling them to make informed decisions.

Until the body piercing industry is supported by training, qualification and regulatory systems, children and young people may be at risk if they are not aware of the facts. We are reassured that this resource pack will equip teachers and other professionals to deliver key messages to young people about 'staying safe' and 'being healthy', in line with the Every Child Matters objectives. I hope that, in the long term, this resource will be launched as a national initiative, so that young people everywhere may benefit from this important information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Owen', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**Trevor Owen**  
Senior Manager, Safeguarding Children Service / Board November 2010

The endorsement of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board is currently limited and subject to review following evaluation of the Dan Aid Teaching Resource Pack pilot.

# 1. Why Use The Pack?

There are **three** good reasons:

**1 >** it covers an important issue relating to the health and wellbeing of young people, namely body piercing.

**2 >** it contains material that young people today will find relevant, engaging and stimulating.

**3 >** it gives you, the professional delivering the material, a rich choice of resources that you can tailor to the needs of your class or group to meet your objectives in terms of learning aims and outcomes.

And what's more, we think you will enjoy delivering it.

# 3. What's So Important About Body Piercing?

Apart from the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, there is no specific legislation governing the body piercing industry, no recognised qualification for body piercers, and no minimum age limit for getting pierced, except when it comes to piercing intimate parts of the body. This puts young people in a potentially risky situation if they decide to go for a piercing but do not have the knowledge or understanding to make informed choices on what to do, where to go, or what to look out for.

The British Medical Journal surveyed more than 10,500 people in England and found that one in seven young people who get a body piercing have to seek professional help because of problems arising as a result of the

piercing: e.g. swelling, redness, discharge and generally feeling unwell and concerned. The report claims 16-24 year-olds are more likely to have a health problem because of a poorly executed piercing. One in five people pierced their bodies themselves or got someone who was not an expert in the procedure to do it for them.

So you see the risks.

This resource pack is designed to help you provide information to young people about good practices in body piercing in ways that will engage their interest. The information in the pack is impartial, it is neither pro nor anti piercing and its aim is simply to help you equip young people with the knowledge to go out into the world and make their own informed decisions about piercing. This aim is reinforced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority:

“Good health is important for effective learning, and learning about healthy lifestyles helps give pupils the confidence and support to make informed choices about their present and future health”.

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It's about providing children and young people with the skills needed to lead healthy, safe, responsible and fulfilled lives.

Although body piercing is often associated with tattooing, tattooing is not explicitly covered in this pack. This is because tattooing is a topic in its own right, and there is tighter regulation in place to protect young people. For example it is illegal for a tattooist to tattoo anyone under the age of 18. This is not the case for body piercing where there is no legal age limit, except for piercing intimate body parts.

# 6. Contents Of The Pack.

The pack consists of:



A DVD containing a number of files. (Note: this is a DVD-ROM to be read by a computer, it will not play in a DVD player.)



The Background Briefing Notes booklet



A Guide To Using The Dan Aid Teaching Resource Pack (this booklet)

## The DVD disc contains the following materials >

### Lesson Plans

There are four lesson plans stored as pdf files. (You will need Adobe Reader to read these - <http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>)

#### Lesson 1a

'Body Piercing – Check it Out'

#### Lesson 1b

'Body Piercing – Reducing the Risks'

#### Lesson 2

'Piercing Studio Enterprise'

#### Lesson 3

'Body Piercing - The Debate'

See Part 2 of this booklet for full descriptions of the lesson plans.

### PowerPoint Presentations

There are four PowerPoint presentations, one to accompany each of the four lesson plans. (You will need a copy of Microsoft PowerPoint or the Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer to access these - <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint/>)

### Video sequences

There are nine video sequences intended to be played as part of the lessons. They are encoded as Windows Media Video (i.e \*.wmv files) and a link to each one is embedded within the PowerPoint presentations, so each sequence can be activated in its intended place by a single click from within the PowerPoint slides. The videos can also be played independently using the Windows Media Player - <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-GB/windows/products/windows-media-player>.

The videos are:

1. Piercing in Action (5:11)
2. Views from the Street 1 (6:00)
3. Dan's Story (2:28)
4. Piercing and Health (4:11)
5. Regulation (8:11)
6. What to Look Out For (5:46)
7. Body Piercing (13:00)
8. Views From the Street 2 (2:59)
9. The Debate (8:26)

A summary of each video is given in the Appendix.

### Handout Material

Handout material for the four lessons is stored as pdf files. These are all A4 format and can be printed or photocopied in black and white. It is expected that teachers or other people presenting this pack will print off the number of handouts required.

For convenience of access the above content is divided into six folders on the disc, five of the folders containing the material needed for each of the lessons – i.e. lesson 1a, lesson 1b, lesson 2, lesson 3, and a fifth lesson (lesson 1c) which is intended for situations, such as school assemblies, where the time available to dedicate to body piercing is limited.

The sixth folder – called 'supplementary material' - contains pdf files of this booklet and the Background Briefing Notes booklet.

# Lesson 1a.

## Body Piercing - Check it Out.

This is the **first** of two linked lessons, and it sets the scene by introducing the subject of body piercing. It demonstrates that most young people are fairly uninformed about the lack of regulation and the dangers concerned with body piercing. The lesson reveals the story of Daniel Hindle's tragic death which has inspired the production of this educational pack. Students are asked to consider given scenarios. In summary, the industry is poorly regulated and there can be a risk of serious infection especially if you have underlying medical conditions. If in doubt see your doctor first.

## Lesson Plan Lesson 1a.

### Body Piercing - Check it Out

#### Context of Lesson:

Introduction to body piercing.

#### Learning Objectives:

Is body piercing always safe?

#### Learning Outcomes:

**All** to know that body piercing has associated risks and that we need to take the risks into account when making informed decisions.

**Most** to know how the risks involved can be reduced.

**Some** to know about specific conditions that can put them in a more vulnerable position.

#### Resources:

PowerPoint presentation "*Body Piercing Check it Out*".

4 x video sequences – embedded links within the PowerPoint.

Discussion sheet - pdf.

Happiness graph activity - pdf.

#### Starter Activity:

Show video 1 "*Piercing in Action*".