



THE BRUNTS ACADEMY



Safeguarding Newsletter



Energy Drinks

Recent research has continued to give advice to parents and carers that energy drinks are **unsuitable for children**. Energy drinks are not permitted in the academy. Please remind your child not to consume energy drinks on their journey to the academy, or buy them to consume during the day. Most energy drinks contain high levels of sugar or stimulants like caffeine and taurine.

An article in The Independent, on **11 June**, stated that UK teenagers are the



largest consumers of energy drinks for their age group in Europe, consuming over a litre a month more than their peers on the continent. The article also explained that one third of children in the UK consume caffeinated energy drinks on a weekly basis despite evidence to suggest that they are harmful to children. Stimulants like caffeine, taurine and guarana are thought to alter heart rate, blood pressure and other heart functions.

A recent study in the US, links energy drinks to abnormal heart rhythms (Arrhythmia). Please encourage your child to consume water and avoid energy drinks, **including isotonic sports drinks**.

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Safeguarding is:

- Protecting children from abuse
- Preventing harm to children’s development
- Providing safe and effective care
- Promoting the best outcomes for children

Emergency Contacts:

- Police: 999—101
- NSPCC: 08088005000
- Childline: 0800-1111
- MASH: 0300-5008090
- EDT: 0300-4564546
- CAMHS Crisis: 08081963779



Site and Community Safety

Thank-you for supporting safe entries and exits from the academy. We are very pleased that arrival and departure times have been very safe for children throughout the year, and this is thanks to your invaluable support. We have recently had new additional security fencing installed which has enhanced our site safety and provides further effective barriers to prevent unauthorised access.

Please remember:

- **Arrival for all visitors is via Park Avenue.** Please sign in at reception on arrival and read the safeguarding information before being issued with a red safeguarding lanyard and being collected by a member of staff.

Arrival time (students)

Thank-you for sending your child to the academy for a prompt start: **#OnTimeIsLate**. Unfortunately, we cannot have students onsite before **0730**. If your child does arrive 'early', they **MUST** either go to breakfast club at the SDC or to McBrunts. These areas are fully supervised by staff. All students need to be onsite by **0820**.

Bath Lane entrance and exit

Can we please remind all our parents and carers about expectations when driving towards or away from the drop off point from Bath Lane?

- The speed limit is **10mph**. This is surprisingly slow, but essential to keep our children safe. Recent observations show that drivers are slowing for the speed bumps but accelerating between them, which puts children at risk. Please stick to 10mph, as the signs display. It is 10 for a reason. Thank-you.
- Please refrain from parking on the driveway. This results in causing bottle necks and represents a threat to children's safety. If you do park there, you will be asked to move down to Bath Lane, Sandy Lane or Ravensdale Road where there is ample parking.



St Peter's Way/Bath Lane Junction

We have had reports of some children not paying due care and attention when crossing the road at pedestrian crossings here (pictured). This is a very busy junction. If your child travels this way to/from the academy, please remind them about staying safe (and when navigating all highways).

- Use pedestrian crossings where available
- STOP
- Look, listen and think
- Be aware of the direction and speed of road traffic
- Only cross when safe to do so



“Safeguarding is everyone”

Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership

The partnership is working together with the local authority to establish a parent-carer group that helps to create information, advice, guidance and support for each other to navigate the challenges faced throughout childhood and the teenage years.

The link to the initial questionnaire is via the **QR code** here. The form takes a couple of minutes to complete with a few short questions. Please take the time to complete it to support our work in looking after children, working closely with you, our families.



Summer safety

As we have finally arrived in UK summertime (have we?), and, as we draw nearer to the summer holiday, we would like to remind you of the dangers that may be faced by children over this period of time.

Water safety

Mansfield and the surrounding areas has **significant bodies of open water** including King’s Mill Reservoir, Vicar Water, Sutton Lawn, Pleasley Pit, Rainworth Lakes and several more...

These areas of water are **not safe** for swimming. Many of them have natural currents and variable depths, all of which can be dangerous. Please remind your child **NOT** to swim in open water unless this is part of an official event which has been risk assessed and has qualified staff in supervision to attend to any emergency situations.

A free water safety booklet is here: [Water Safety Advice \(rlss.org.uk\)](http://rlss.org.uk)

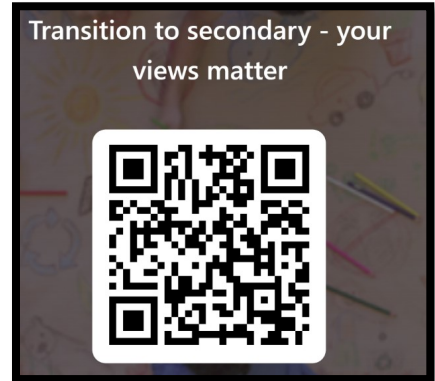
Rail safety

East Midlands Railway runs train services through Mansfield to other destinations like Nottingham and Worksop. Your child should never play near railway lines AND never trespass on them—train tracks are private property.

Additionally, if crossing a rail line in a designated area: stop, look, listen, wait, walk

Never use headphones/mobile phones around rail lines.

Parent-Carer group



E-scooters

We have been working with the police to support clear messaging about e-scooters. **These can only be ridden on private land and are not permitted to be ridden on UK highways including pavements UNLESS they are part of an approved scheme.** Currently, Mansfield is not part of such a scheme. Schools and the police are concerned about the number of young people riding e-scooters illegally and dangerously in the community, putting themselves and others at risk. They can reach high speeds of over 30 mph. Please ensure that if your child has access to an e-scooter that they are only using it on private land, in agreement with the landowner, and our recommendation would be that they also wear a helmet. E-scooters are obviously not permitted in the academy.

Online Safety



Young people sometimes place themselves at risk through their online activities. Does your child have these Apps? Wizz and Telegram? If they do, please do **talk** to your child about how they use them. They may be gateways to contact with people that represent a threat to children. Please contact the academy if you have any concerns, and we will support.

Academy attendance

We will shortly be publishing our updated **academy attendance policy**. It focusses on rewarding high attendance and celebrating great punctuality (#OnTimelyLate). It also focusses on developing a **culture of high attendance**. Attendance is EVERYONE's responsibility,

Our academy attendance is broadly in line with the national average for secondary academies/schools **BUT**, the national average continues to decline; it is now 91.1% in the year to date. Numbers of children who are classed as persistently absent from school continue to increase, and this may become a safeguarding concern. Please do call or email the academy if your child cannot attend on any day (01623 623149 option 1 or attendance@bruntsacademy.org). Three days of absence with no notification will trigger an academy **safeguarding home visit**. Additionally, even with notice, a home visit is likely after 5 days of absence so that we can securely know that a child is safe, This is part of safeguarding compliance.

Please support us in keeping children safe by ensuring your child attends the academy regularly and notify us of any concerns or problems that may be preventing high attendance. Thank-you.

Equality

The academy prides itself on ensuring our students and staff demonstrate respect for each other (a fundamental British value). Any incidents of discrimination, against protected characteristics (shown here) is against UK LAW (Equality Act 2010). These may also be safeguarding concerns. We always deal with these cases quickly and effectively. If you have any concerns about discrimination that may put a child at risk, please do contact a member of our safeguarding team.



Contacts:

Steve Taylor—Deputy Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead (staylor@bruntsacademy.org)

Jayne Kirkland—Deputy Safeguarding Lead (jkirkland@bruntsacademy.org)

In the next issue... Dealing with bereavement