



Safeguarding Newsletter

Quality Assurance

Our annual safeguarding quality assurance was completed by Ashley Wilson—Safeguarding advisor from the Greenwood Academies Trust...

Ashley spoke to students and staff and scrutinised our safeguarding contextual risk assessment as well as CPOMS (our safeguarding database). Additionally, he assured our own evaluations of safeguarding (our toolkit). Ashley was very happy that our safeguarding remains effective and robust and complemented the students and staff on their knowledge of safeguarding compliance and culture in the academy. The children were unanimous in stating that they are safe and *feel safe* in the academy.



GREENWOOD
ACADEMIES TRUST
SAFEGUARDING

We have appointed **Emma Jimmick** to the role of a second Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). This adds further to our capacity to keep children safe. Emma will play a key part in leading our anti-bullying work as our anti-bullying coordinator and provide support for children with medical conditions. We are delighted to have Emma onboard at Team Brunts.

Anti-Bullying #BeProud

Our 'fabulous' Anti-Bullying ambassadors will be leading training in anti-bullying for other students in the academy on **January 10th**. This will give us a representative in every tutor group in the academy, to be our eyes and ears. They will support the prevention of bullying and help to report concerns where they see or hear them. It will also help us to support a deeper understanding of the impact of conflict and bullying.



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Safeguarding is:

- Providing early help to children as soon as problems emerge
- 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 continuing to support safe entries and exits from the academy. Morning arrival time is now much more efficient following some intervention in traffic management. Please remember that if you are choosing to drop your child off at the drop off area, that the speed limit on the Bath Lane drive is **10mph**.

Please remember that **Park Avenue** is the only access to site for visitors.

Afternoon pick ups:

The vehicle gates will be opened at 2:55pm from the Bath Lane approach. We still have a very high number of vehicles arriving on site at this time and would politely ask:

- Does your child need to be picked up from the exit point? Is it possible for them to walk home or walk down the drive where there are **over 300 parking spaces** on Ravensdale Road, Sandy Lane and Bath Lane?
- If your child has mobility issues or additional needs– please feel free to use the accessible parking area
- If you do choose to pick your child up in a vehicle each evening **WE ARE NOW ASKING THAT YOU DO NOT TURN YOUR VEHICLE AROUND IN THE ROAD** when your child has accessed the vehicle. This is because we have had two near misses with drivers almost reversing into a child walking safely down the drive! If you chose to drive onto site, you will be expected to **wait in the queue** and **use the turning circle**, which will add additional time to your journey, but will keep children safe. The best alternative is to park on Sandy Lane, Bath Lane or Ravensdale Road and ask your child to make the short walk down the drive. Thank-you in advance.



Site Safety

We have been upgrading our site security and have installed additional fencing (pictured here) to further mitigate against the risk of any unauthorised access to site. This also coincided with the teaching of a routine to our students for an emergency lockdown. We were impressed with the manner in which all students rehearsed this routine, given the fact it can cause heightened anxiety for many young people, but is an essential aspect of our health and safety and safeguarding of children (and staff).

Visitors on site

We follow strict guidelines about allowing visitors onsite, ensuring we keep all our children safe. Any contractors working onsite are either checked and 'approved' and wear our 'blue' high vis jackets. Unapproved contractors are supervised at all times by our wonderful site team and wear red high vis jackets. Pictured is Mr Smith, our site manager, with contractors, upgrading lighting to ensure our children feel safe in the dark mornings and evenings of winter :)



Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership

The partnership had its second meeting of the term at All Saints Catholic Academy on 10th December. The team discussed the development of the parent group (QR code available here) and the current concerns about children’s safety and welfare. Local Authority representatives presented about attendance and the link to safeguarding and the group have decided to explore planning for a Young Person’s safeguarding conference next year. Exciting news and a great way to capture student voice—young people exploring their own thoughts about the challenges they face and solutions to overcoming them.

Interview with Mr Fisher (Executive Principal)

Three of our wonderful Anti-Bullying Ambassadors grilled Mr Fisher about safeguarding this week to get an insight into academy leadership of our most important priority—here’s what they asked and what he said...

How do you ensure safeguarding remains a top priority?

A: By making sure that all staff have the right training and awareness, and for example by ensuring the site is safe (like installing new security fencing).

What are the challenges in safeguarding and how do you address them?

A: It is a significant challenge because you can never tell what may happen— it is unpredictable. Fortunately, I have a great core team that are proactive and respond well to any challenge!

What does it take to maintain effective safeguarding?

A: Knowledgeable and competent staff and responding to the data—current concerns and addressing them with effective actions.

How do Greenwood Academies Trust support effective safeguarding?

A: We have a safeguarding ‘director’ that check our systems and processes and offer support and professional challenge. The Trust also help with funding, for example in improving site safety.

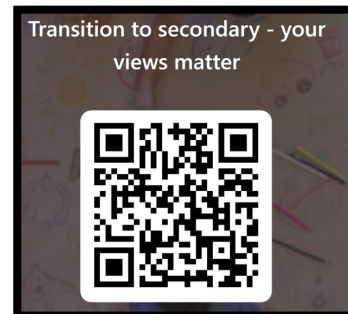
As Executive Principal, how do you ensure that all adults onsite are safe to work with us?

A: All visitors must sign in at reception and cannot visit site without our team allowing access through security gates. The site is fully covered by CCTV for people’s safety and security. Visitors sign in and are asked to read our safeguarding information and are issued with a lanyard (red is unapproved and green is approved).

For employing new staff, we follow Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance—we have fully trained staff in ‘safer recruitment’ from the decision to recruit a member of staff, the advert, the application and references as well as the interview and probation period. Our recruitment process is very safe and we would not allow any adult who was not safe around children to be employed with us. We also complete social media checks to ensure potential staff are safe to work with children and are aligned to our core values.

Mr Fisher thanked the students for their great questions and he was very pleased to be able to answer them!

Parent-Carer group



Hate crimes



We have recently experienced a number of incidents where young people have used ‘**racist terms**’. This has been a concern across schools in the district. As adults, we have a responsibility to educate young people about why these terms are abhorrent and unacceptable in our world. Any racist term directed at a person or group is illegal under the Equality Act (2010).

Any child who uses a racist term will receive intervention from members of staff and also our schools early intervention officer, PC Natalie Sinclair. It will also be recorded as a ‘hate’ incident on our safeguarding database. Racist abuse is a criminal offence.

Racism has no place in our academy, or in society and we would ask all our parents and carers to support this view in their interactions with their children.

Online Safety—AI, deep fakes and synthetic media

With technology constantly evolving, it can be hard to keep track of the latest trends and online safety guidance. Technology offers exciting possibilities for creativity and innovation, but it also introduces new challenges and risks, particularly for children and young people.

As a parent, understanding what synthetic media is and how it can impact your child’s online experience, as well as your own, can help you guide your children as they navigate their use of technology and artificial intelligence safely and responsibly.

Being aware of what you and your child are sharing online is a crucial step to protecting them from forms of online harm and can reduce the impact of synthetic content. One of the first steps you can take is to discuss and adjust the privacy settings on your child's social media accounts to ensure privacy; this can help to ensure that only trusted people can see their content and personal information. It is advisable to regularly review these settings and make sure they are appropriate for yourself and your child.

It is a good idea to frequently review app permissions across your child’s devices and consider limiting how often apps can access camera, microphone, and location services; check to see if apps are requesting excessive permissions and consider if apps have a clear need for the requested data.

Educating your child about the importance of not clicking on suspicious links or sharing information with unknown sources can also help to protect their personal information from being shared online. Using child-friendly search browsers such as **Swiggle** can help support young children when searching for images or content online by ensuring they can’t stumble across inappropriate and harmful content.

Academy attendance

Thank-you for supporting our culture of high attendance. As we end the Autumn term, we are delighted that Brunts attendance is **above the national average** and we are proud that attendance systems and processes are supporting improvements for children where attendance has been a worry—removing barriers and providing the right support. We are also proud of the manner in which we have upgraded our celebrations and rewards for improving and high attendance, including a movie matinee afternoon on December 18th. The link between declining attendance and persistent or severe absence is very stark and we would urge any parent or carer to contact us at their earliest opportunity where there is a worry, so that we can support.

Contacts:

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

Emma Jimmick—Deputy Safeguarding Lead (ejimmick@bruntsacademy.org)

In the next issue... Truancy and missing episodes

PC Sinclair

