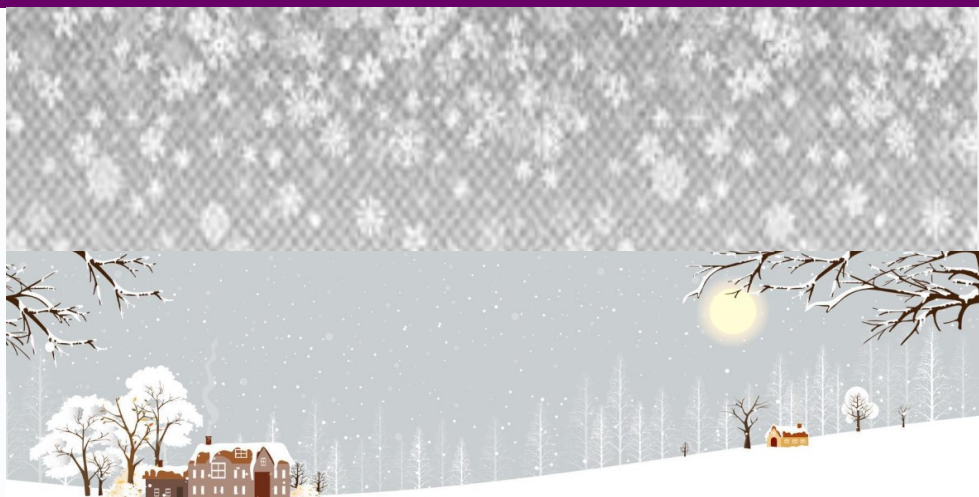




THE BRUNTS ACADEMY

Safeguarding Newsletter



Quality Assurance

We recently had our **Greenwood Academies Trust** safeguarding quality assurance annual review. We are very pleased that the feedback was extremely positive and highlights the strengths in safeguarding that the academy continues to work hard to maintain and enhance. Strengths identified included:

- Timely responses to safeguarding concerns
- Working effectively with other agencies
- Student and staff voice (especially how to report concerns)
- Understanding and response to contextual safeguarding concerns

There were also some elements that we will continue to improve considering the feedback. We will be training anti-bullying student ambassadors next half term to support our 'respect' agenda and ensure children treat each other with 'kindness'. Furthermore, we have secured capital funding to enhance site safety through increased perimeter fencing at Park Avenue, which means there will be additional physical barriers for controlled access to site.

Our students were particularly impressive when questioned and explained that they were safe and felt safe; that they had at least one trusted adult they could talk to with a concern. They also explained the many ways that the academy educates them and has clear measures in place to keep them safe. Impressive!

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Brunts Academy are working with our Trust (GAT), in partnership with an international leading data company on a project to analyse the data we hold and potentially use this to identify patterns and trends that 'humans' may not have been able to identify. This would be represent a step change and significant development in the use of technology (generative AI) to further protect children and is a very exciting development. It would be similar to those used in the police force and by the NHS for early warning signs or pinch points. We look forward to working together to improve our ability to prevent harm to children.

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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



Site and Community Safety

Thank-you for using the Park Avenue entrance and exit for visits to the academy. This has been a significant success over the last half term. We have visited properties on Park Avenue and received very positive feedback about the fall in pedestrian traffic over this period.

Polite Reminder: We are no longer allowing visitor access from Bath Lane or Windmill Lane. Please always arrive and depart to/from Park Avenue. We are not allowing access for visitors during the day from other entrances as this represents a security/site safety/safeguarding risk.

Please always sign in on arrival at **main reception** and collect a visitor's lanyard. You must always be accompanied on site.

Reception –unfortunately, we have recently had some parents who have become angry or aggressive in our reception area. Whilst we do understand that a parent may have a concern or frustration, this is not the way to raise this. We will be working with our parent forum group to uplift our '**home-academy agreement**' and we will issue a parent-carer/visitor **code of conduct** which will outline our commitments to you, our parents and carers, and our expectations of you onsite. Reception will also have some new and visible signage:

Thank-you for visiting The Brunts Academy. We hope your visit is positive and successful. In return, we ask that all visitors are polite and respectful to our students and staff. There is no place in the academy for abusive conduct. Anyone showing a lack of respect for others or behaving in a violent, aggressive or discriminatory manner, to any member of our academy community will be asked to leave immediately. Thank-you #RespectForOthers

Windmill Lane

We are in touch with Mansfield District Council regarding Windmill Lane as we are aware that following heavy rainfall, this entrance/exit can become flooded or have significant areas of standing water. We will continue to do our best to ensure this entrance is safe and accessible for students.

Bath Lane Entrance and Exit

Can we please remind those parents and carers who drop off and collect their child/children in a car, regarding keeping children safe? We would respectfully ask:

- Does your child really need a lift? Are they able to walk, or partly walk to school to avoid a large volume of traffic each morning and evening?
- If your child has a mobility issue or high level need—please use the accessible parking area
- Please continue to queue and not park on the Bath Lane driveway. The gate will remain closed until 2:30pm—please use the pick up area
- **Please do not stop in the turning circle**– only the drop-off/pick up area
- The Bath Lane driveway has a speed limit of 10mph for child safety—please stick to this limit
- Students can arrive and depart from/to Bath Lane or Windmill Lane. This is not restricted to specific year groups

Carr Bank Park—If your child uses this local area of natural beauty as a route to/from the academy, can you please remind them that members of the public also use the park and that they represent our academy when wearing our uniform? We expect every child to conduct themselves with respect on these journeys.

Carr Bank Park



“Safeguarding is everyone”

Schools Early Intervention Officer (SEIO)

The academy continues to work with a range of partners to keep children safe. Our relationship with the **police** is very positive indeed.

PC Natalie Sinclair works in the academy every Tuesday and her work includes sharing ‘intelligence’ from the community with our safeguarding team, and us with her. This enables close working relationships with safeguarding staff across the town and in other schools.

PC Sinclair also leads preventative workshops, supported by academy staff, for example, recently, she spoke with the whole of year 8 regarding the dangers of taking/sharing and storing ‘indecent images’. She has also spoken with groups of children about the risk of criminal exploitation and drugs misuse.

We have a planned programme of support to educate our students and help them to keep themselves safe, and we are proud to continue our work with the police, in close collaboration, to protect young people.

Anti Bullying ambassadors and training

Next term, we will be ‘recruiting’ and training ABAs—Anti-bullying ambassadors). They will form a key part of our work around anti-bullying. Training will include:

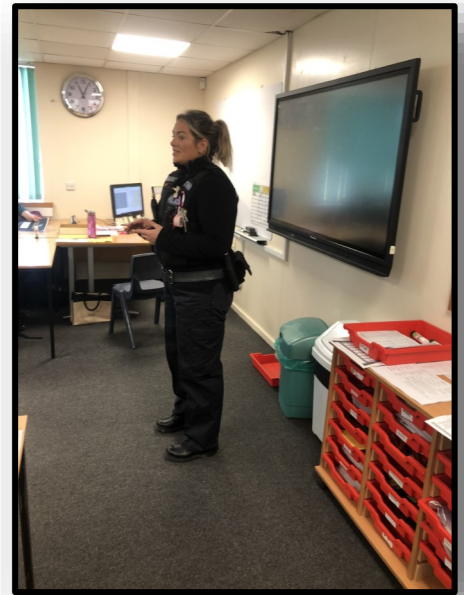
- Supporting peers
- Understanding bullying
- Reporting concerns
- Working closely with safeguarding staff
- Providing training for others
- Working with the antibullying alliance
- Proving feedback against the academy action plan on anti-bullying and informing further work

Prohibited items

Please ensure that your child does not bring any of these items onsite as they represent a risk to their own or others’ safety and welfare:

- Energy drinks—this includes Lucozade (your child only needs brain food—WATER)
- Any sharp objects—the police may view these as ‘bladed weapons’
- E-cigarettes or vape paraphernalia
- Any object that could be used to harm another child or member of staff
- Any illegal drugs—prescribed medicines should be brought into the academy with details of dosage from a medical practitioner

PC Sinclair



Online Safety



How safe is your child online? How do you know? Do you monitor your child's device activity? How effective is this? Almost all children are far more technologically advanced than adults. Many of them have unlimited calls, texts and data and are savvy online operators.

Mobile phones are the gateway to lots of concerns about children including criminal and sexual exploitation, drugs misuse, pornography, online gambling, unhealthy relationships, bullying and more besides. Many children will be getting a new device for Christmas.

Help your child to have a positive digital footprint and avoid online dangers. Talk to them about their internet/device use, for example, how they use social media.

Help your child to stay **SMART** online



Safe: Never give personal details online, share inappropriate images, or have friends you've never met face to face.

Mindful: 'Click with kindness' and being positive, never arrange to meet anyone you've only met online. Respect yourself and others online.

Ask: Ask yourself—is this someone I know? Should I accept their request? Should I accept files and hyperlinks sent to me from someone I don't know?

Reliable: Remember not every website and application is reliable—lots of content is opinion, NOT fact. Lots of content on the web and applications are not suitable for children

Tell: If you are worried about anything online, especially communications from others, TELL a trusted adult

Contacts:

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

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

Christmas Holiday:

Academy staff **will not be available to support** safeguarding of children, though some checks will be made by the DSL and DDSL for vulnerable children.

Please see the home page of the website for key contacts over the festive season should you have a concern about your own child or another child. Also, listed here:

- Child at immediate risk? Call POLICE **999**
- NSPCC Hotline: 08088005000 **Childline:** 0800-1111 **Police:** 101
- Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub MASH: **0300 5008090**
- In an emergency, out of Academy hours (after 5pm), contact EDT: **0300 4564546**
- LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): 0115 8041272 LADO@nottsc.gov.uk

In the next issue...

Child criminal exploitation, social media, discrimination and equality

#StaySafe Happy Christmas!