



THE BRUNTS ACADEMY



Be Proud Be Respectful Be Resilient Be Ambitious

Safeguarding Newsletter

Ongoing training. Keeping your child safe.

Department for Education

Keeping children safe in education 2024

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

Part one: Information for all school and college staff

The first half term of the year has seen lots of safeguarding input to our teams. All the mandatory training updates have been completed for ALL staff, regardless of their role in the academy. This includes reading the statutory guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education part one (updated Sept 2024).

Our Core safeguarding team (below) consists of **24 staff**, who all wear **YELLOW** lanyards at work and all complete specific child protection actions daily to keep our children safe. We are very grateful for the invaluable work they do.

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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



Immediate concern about a child? Call Police: 999/101
 Childline Call: 08001111
 NSPCC helpline: Call: 08088005000
 Nottinghamshire MASH Call: 03005008090
 CAMHS Crisis Team Call: 08088005000

Brunts Academy CORE Safeguarding Team 2024-2025 #SafeguardingFirst #1. Proud to be a founding member of the Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership

DSL Steve Taylor	DDSL Jayne Kirkland	S.E.I.O. Natalie Sinclair	SVP Culture Kate Loach	Dir. OF SEND Suzy Mann	Dir of Sixth Form Michelle Hackett	Head of KS4 Josh Morris	Head of KS3 Mel Waddingham	SLT Culture Mike Elland
Head of Y7 Kate Meade	Achievement Lead Y7 Jon Solly	Head of Y8 Hani Quinn	Achievement Lead Y8 Georgia Archer	Head of Y9 Fiona Prince	Head of Y10 Helen Leaning	Achievement Lead Y10 Niall Morris	Head of Y11 Amanda Banister	SEND Champion Abi Atkin
Head of Sixth Form Abi Olsen	Core Attendance Steph Cranmer	Core Attendance Emma Mosby	Wellbeing Lead Claire Bryan	Wellbeing Lead Deb Featherstone	SEND Champion Kathryn Vickers	SEND Champion Kathryn Vickers	SEND Champion Abi Atkin	SEND Champion Abi Atkin



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 remained very safe for children at the start of this year, building on last year's significant improvements. We are grateful for your recent feedback about arrival times and difficulties accessing Bath Lane drive. We are aware that the approaches to the academy continue to be very busy and are often affected by ongoing roadworks which appear to be never ending!

We have taken effective action to alleviate congestion by actively supporting vehicle entry and exit to site each morning from around 8:05am. This appears to be working well but we would still respectfully make the following requests:

- Does your child need to be driven to school, is it possible for them to walk to the academy, or cycle?
- If driving, can you drop them off on the approaches to the Academy, for example on Sandy Lane or Ravensdale Road?

Additionally, can all parents and carers please reiterate with their child that they should endeavour to walk up the drive on the **RIGHT hand** side, because this means they do not have to use the crossing point which stops the flow of traffic.

Please also remember that **ALL** traffic accessing the academy drive is restricted to **10 miles an hour. This is VERY slow, and for good reason.**

Thank-you for keeping our children safe.

Please remember:

- **Arrival for all visitors is via Park Avenue.** No visitors can access the academy site from any other entrance. 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 in the Support hub or to McBrunts. These areas are fully supervised by staff. All students need to be onsite by **0825**.



Bereavement

A number of children and families have suffered bereavement this half term with family or close friends. We are supporting these families at this very difficult times.

There is no 'guide' to dealing with the loss of a loved one, it is often a very private and personal process, but we will always reach out to our parents, carers and our students to support in every way we can.

The children's bereavement centre is based in Newark, here:

[Helping Children & Young People Through Trauma | Children's Bereavement Centre \(childrensbereavementcentre.co.uk\)](https://www.childrensbereavementcentre.co.uk)

This website is also useful for support and resources: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

You are not alone...



Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership

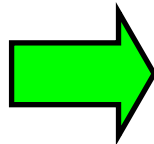
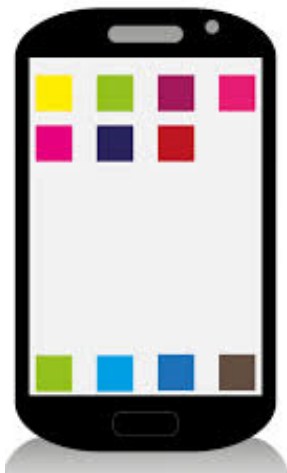
The partnership has established a parent-carer group that helps to create information, advice, guidance and support for each other to navigate the challenges faced throughout childhood and the teenage years. Please complete the form via this QR code if you would like to be involved.

The partnership is also working with local police. They have recently shared their new PIP (**Partnership Intelligence Portal**). This enables professionals across the town, from different organisations, to share key information about the safety and welfare of young people so that we can work together to keep them safe.

Mobile Phones:

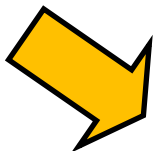
The good, the bad and the ugly...

Mobile phones are a modern day ‘double edged sword’. Absolutely brilliant in keeping children safe, connectivity, and sharing, but the gateway to serious harm at the same time. How does your child use theirs and how do you know?



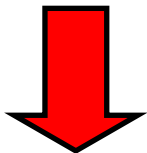
The good:

- Staying in touch, location services to keep your child safe
- Positive social contact and association with community groups
- Video calls to family and friends who live long distances away
- Apps for mental health support
- Access to learning platforms
- Help with day to day routines like alarms for waking up and being punctual



The bad

- Over sharing—especially personal details
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Access to age inappropriate web content like pornography
- FOMO— device addiction
- Limited ability to socialise face to face
- Over reliance on technology with limited other skills
- Not being willing to share phone content with a parent (why not?)



The ugly

- Cyber bullying
- Access to Apps like Whizz and Telegram that can be the gateway to accessing drugs and drug dealers
- Child exploitation—contact with criminals and people who harm children
- Taking, sharing, storing indecent images of self/others—nudes and Sextortion
- Arranging to meet unknown people you’ve only ever met online
- The dark web
- Recording and/or storing/sharing of serious violence between children

Parent-Carer group

Transition to secondary - your views matter



Substance watch

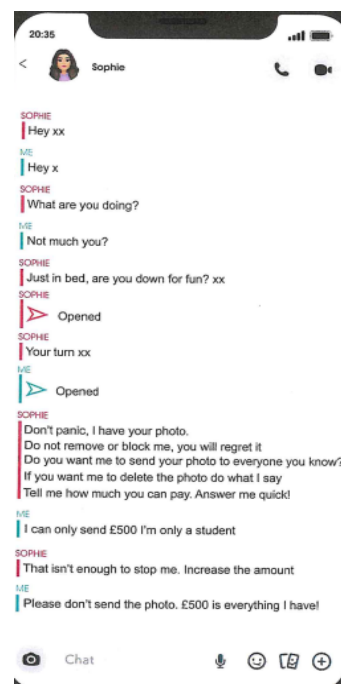


We are aware that 'Snus' are being used by children in the local community. Some parents/carers may be unaware of what this substance is...

Snus is a highly potent nicotine product that comes in many different flavours, in small white pouches. These white pouches are pushed inside the gums and sit there, very discreetly making it very easy for children to use them at home or at school. The product does not give off any waste such as vapour/smoke and will often smell like chewing gum. People that use this product will experience an extremely intense nicotine rush to the head and sometimes this can cause vomiting, dizziness and also passing out/becoming unconscious. Symptoms are often heightened for children. Much like the vapes, snus are very easy for children to obtain and can cost as little as £4 for a tub (see image) from any local shop or supermarket. Please be aware of the potential risk that is posed.

Online Safety—Sextortion

We are working with Nottinghamshire police to CONTINUE to educate young people about the dangers of taking, storing and sharing indecent images of children. As well as being a serious safeguarding concern, this is also illegal, and a criminal offence. Recently there has been a spike in indecent images getting into the hands of criminals and unscrupulous adults who then demand money from people— this is called SEXTORTION. Please see the screenshot here. One image could ruin a young life!



Academy attendance

We have updated our **academy attendance policy**. It focusses on rewarding high attendance and celebrating great punctuality (#OnTimeIsLate). 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 at this point in the year (7 weeks in). We continue to work hard with parents, carers and children where attendance is becoming a concern and if your child's attendance drops below 90% they are classed as **persistently absent**. This will be recorded and monitored on our safeguarding database, CPOMS.

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.

Contacts:

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

In the next issue... Child Exploitation