



Be Proud Be Respectful Be Resilient Be Ambitious

Safeguarding Newsletter

Safeguarding Assurance—G.A.T.

Gillian Quincy, Head of safeguarding at the Greenwood Academies Trust visited the academy on Thursday 3rd April, with Ash Wilson (Safeguarding Advisor), to complete a further assurance of our compliance and culture of safeguarding. Her feedback was very positive and she indicated that safeguarding remains effective, with many strengths in practice and procedures. She was particularly impressed by diligent record keeping and the actions taken to protect children. We remain very grateful to our colleagues from GAT for the outstanding support they provide in an increasingly complex landscape!

MSP Safeguarding Exhibition!

Early Notice and a date for your calendar

The **Brunts Academy** will be the **FIRST** very proud host of the **Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership Exhibition** on **Tuesday 15th July**. The exhibition has come about as a result of a desire to support parents and children together with information and support for the challenges faced through childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. The event will run from **4-6pm** and refreshments will be provided.

Olympic Swimmer, ex-student and local celebrity, **Rebecca Adlington** will open the event and contribute with an address about the importance of having positive **mental health**. We are very grateful that Rebecca can commit her support and are delighted that she will be able to contribute so positively in her former school...

Young People will lead information giving and answer questions in a wide range of safeguarding stalls. There will be representation from the County and District Councils, CGL, Healthy Families, The Police, Fire Service, The Youth Service and local schools...watch this space!



THE BRUNTS
ACADEMY



GREENWOOD
ACADEMIES TRUST
SAFEGUARDING



EXPO



MSP
#SafeguardingFirst

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Safeguarding is:

- **P**roviding early help to children as soon as problems emerge
- **P**rotecting children from abuse
- **P**reventing harm to children's development
- **P**roviding safe and effective care
- **P**romoting the best outcomes for children

Emergency Contacts:

Police: 999—101

NSPCC: 08088005000

Childline: 0800-1111

MASH: 0300-5008090

EDT: 0300-4564546

CAMHS Crisis: 08081963779

#SafeguardingFirst

#StrongerTogether



Site Safety

Thank-you for continuing to support safe entries and exits from the academy. We have now established a very safe collection from the academy where no vehicles are parking on the main Bath Lane drive. Additionally, thank-you for listening to our guidance about avoiding **'turning around in the road'**. These improvements along with drivers sticking to our **10MPH** speed limit is ensuring our children are safe on departure from site. "Thank-you"

10mph is **VERY slow**, please stick to this limit, in the interests of child safety and welfare.

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



Substance watch



Intelligence from our partnership colleagues at Change Grow Live (CGL) indicates that recent local concerns about young people's substance misuse is regarding synthetic cannabinoids, or **Spice**. These are drugs which are manufactured in a laboratory.

Spice is a nickname for a substance containing one or more synthetic cannabinoids.

Synthetic cannabinoids were originally designed to mimic the effects of cannabis. However, they are **more harmful** and **unpredictable** than cannabis.

They may be powdered chemicals, dissolved and sprayed onto paper or dried plant material.

Synthetic cannabinoids can also be made into a concentrated liquid to be used in **vapes**.

Many people experience unpleasant and unpredictable effects of using these substances. Effects on the body include:

inability to move, dizziness, breathing difficulties, chest pain, heart palpitations, seizures, extreme anxiety and paranoia

If you think your child may be misusing substances, please talk to them and talk to us so that we can help. Raising awareness of substance use and staying safe will always be our priority.

CGL offer great support for young people and their families—here: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/>



Vaping awareness interventions

We are commencing **vaping awareness courses**. Vapes are prohibited items on site, but we are intending to work with young people to raise awareness of the harmful impact of their use and look at alternatives. Recent scientific research is more concerned about the harmful long term impact on young people's health, especially considering the **frequency** of inhaling the contents of disposable or refillable e-cigarettes.

Any child who is caught in possession of an e-cigarette or related equipment, will still receive a 'correction' and parents informed, but will automatically have to attend an awareness class to support their understanding and discuss alternatives...we are hoping this will have positive impact on choices :)

Reminder: the use of disposable vapes will be illegal in the UK from June 2025



“Safeguarding is everyone”

Danny Castledine Foundation

We are working with the **Danny Castledine Foundation** to raise awareness of the harmful impact of knife crime. The Foundation are a local charity that support schools with resources to educate young people about the truths and myths about knife crime: [Charity | The Danny C. Foundation](#)

Anti-social behaviour

Nottinghamshire Police have been communicating with Mansfield Schools with concerns about anti-social behaviour in parks, the Town Centre and in, or near derelict buildings, which are obviously unsafe for children. They have asked us to ask for parental support in ensuring their children’s whereabouts are known and that they are staying safe when with others, particularly if in groups.

They have asked for parents’ support in ensuring children stay away from Bath Mill, on Bath Lane (pictured here).



Emoji Education

Emojis, while often used for fun, can also convey hidden meanings, especially among young people. Understanding these "secret" meanings is crucial for parents and carers to stay informed about their children's online communication and online safety. Some emojis, like the red heart, generally represent love and friendship, while others, like the eggplant or peach, can have sexually suggestive interpretations.

How can parents keep their children safe?

1. Stay informed

Teen slang and emoji meanings can change over time, so it's important to stay updated. Follow reputable online safety resources and stay engaged in digital trends.

2. Have open conversations

Instead of assuming the worst, ask your child what certain emojis mean to them. Creating a judgment-free space for discussion encourages honesty and trust.

3. Monitor the context

Emojis on their own don't always indicate an issue! Look at the full conversation to conclusions.

4. Use Parental Controls

Consider using parental control apps like Bark, Qustodio, or Apple's Screen Time to monitor for concerning communication without invading your child's privacy.

5. Encourage Safe Online Behaviour

Teach your child about digital responsibility, including:

- The risks of sharing personal information online
- How to recognise and handle peer pressure in digital spaces
- The importance of thinking before posting or messaging



Academy attendance

Our Academy attendance **remains above the national average**, indicating that children enjoy coming to school and the experiences they have with us. Our current attendance (year to date) is 91.9%, with the national average being 91.6%. Please continue to support our Culture of High Attendance and ensure you notify our attendance team with any reasons for absence, by using our messaging App, WEDUC, or by calling 01623-623149 and leaving a voicemail on Option 1.

The table below gives a graphic of the number of days off school in an academy year, with up to 7 days off across the year giving **high attendance**. But if your child reaches 20 days off school, they will be classed as persistently absent and monitored for attendance. Currently, if your child has 12/13 days of absence this year to date, they are 'at risk' of becoming Persistently Absent. PA children have a much higher chance of underachieving and having fewer opportunities in their future...Lower attendance can sometimes be associated with safeguarding concerns.

After the Easter break we will be awarding our 'Silver' podium badges for children with 100% attendance across the Autumn **AND** the Spring term. Those who completed 100% in Spring but didn't manage that in the Autumn will receive their Bronze badge! Well done to all of them :) Thank-you for your invaluable support with attendance.



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
100%	99	99	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89

Young carers

By definition, a young carer is someone under the age of 18 who looks after a family member or friend who has a physical or mental health condition, or misuses drugs or alcohol. They may also look after brothers, sisters or elderly relatives too.

Unfortunately, we are not always aware that young people under our care have caring responsibilities at home. But the data tells us that one thing is for certain: There are clearly a significant number of young people across the Town and local area with caring responsibilities, and it's important that every one of them is getting the support they need.

The 2021 ONS census reported that there are around 120,000 young carers aged 5-18 in England

We can actively support our young carers with a referral into Tu Vida.

Please do let us know if you would like this support for your child...**Please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance**



TuVida – supporting your life

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In the next issue... Multi-agency working