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THE BRUNTS ACADEMY



Safeguarding Newsletter



Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership

We have been working closely with local schools and external agencies recently and have established the **Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership**. The first meeting, on January 23rd, included over 20 representatives from the police, schools, the district council and the local authority. We are very proud to be sharing information actively with like minded people and organisations intent on keeping young people safe.

Amongst the shared work that we have committed is the development of resources to empower parents and carers to better support their children moving through their teenage years, and all the significant challenges that they face. We are also sharing intelligence that is critical in keeping young people safe across the town and wider area. Additionally we have shared a 'anti-vaping' toolkit which will support schools in education around the harmful impact of vaping and enhanced understanding of making informed choices about use of e-cigarettes.

Our next meeting will be at The Queen Elizabeth's Academy in early March.

#StrongerTogether #SafeguardingFirst

GAT DSL training

Several of our staff have recently undertaken the two day Greenwood Academies Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead training. This training enables staff to undertake the key role of DSL in line with statutory responsibilities in schools. Our safeguarding team have regular training updates that supports the academy in providing exceptional care for each and every child that attends.

Greenwood Academies Trust have a dedicated safeguarding team who provide first class training, quality assurance and daily support to our academy and other schools. Our safeguarding associate is Ash Wilson.

See further details here:

<https://www.greenwoodacademies.org/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=29>

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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 term. We have visited properties on Park Avenue and received very positive feedback about the fall in pedestrian traffic over this period. Please remind your child that access to the academy for them is via Windmill Lane and Bath Lane only, unless they arrive outside the normal arrival time, for example, due to a medical appointment.

Polite Reminder: We still have a small minority of parents and visitors still trying to access the academy from Bath Lane or Windmill Lane. We will not allow access from these points due to safeguarding our children onsite. Please always arrive and depart to/from Park Avenue. If you do arrive at other locations, we will politely ask you to go to Park Avenue, please respect that this is not to cause inconvenience, but to safeguarding our students.

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

Arrival time (students)

Thank-you for sending your child to the academy for a prompt start. 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 McBruns. These areas are supervised by staff. We cannot have children onsite unsupervised.

After half term (19 February) **we will be enforcing our arrival time of 0821** through the academy gates. Learning commences in Tutor time, a critical part of our provision and support. Tutor period starts at 0825 hence the need to be through the gates at 0821. Currently, many children arrive after this point, which is a concern. A prompt start to the day is critical and helps our safeguarding operation so that we are secure that our students have all arrived safely. A separate communication will go home about punctuality and changes from 19 February. Please support your child being punctual each day, especially if you drop them off. **#OnTimeIsLate**

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? In the afternoon, we still have around 100 vehicles coming onto site, can we encourage walking, improve health, save fuel, support green travel and further improve safety?
- If dropping your child off, this needs to be **before 0820 please**, to support a prompt start to the academy day
- 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. Some parents and carers are driving far too fast on the driveway. 10mph is very slow, but this is in place for a reason
- Students can arrive and depart from/to Bath Lane or Windmill Lane. This is not restricted to specific year groups

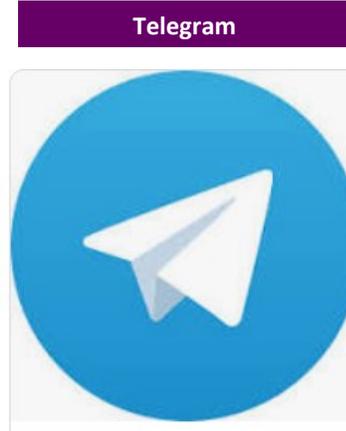


“Safeguarding is everyone”

Drugs Misuse

We have a very small minority of children who are misusing drugs, this is similar to most secondary schools. The **Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership** is prioritising this concern with support from the tackling emerging threats to children team, the district council and CGL (Change Grow Live), who support young people to understand the impact of drugs misuse, as well as facilitate better/different choices. We are all aware about the sharp rise in use of e-cigarettes, but we also have children using cannabis and more harmful drugs such as Ketamine and MDMA (ecstasy). MDMA is a class A drug with hallucinogenic properties. These sensations often result in behaviours that are unsafe and risk taking that result in injury to self and/or others or worse. Its side effects can include raised body temperature, loss of inhibitions, increased physical activity, panic attacks, seizures, and loss of consciousness. We continue to work through the new partnership with Designated Safeguarding Leads in other schools and the police to track and identify suppliers of these drugs to children in the Mansfield area. Please be vigilant around your children's conversations about possible drugs use and report to the safeguarding team or the police. We will continue to do everything in our power to identify and eliminate drugs use in our community, to keep children safe.

Please be aware that the **Telegram App** (a free messaging service) is increasingly being used as a platform that drug dealers use to exploit children by arranging sales and handover of drugs at agreed locations. This app also supports other criminal activities like illegal streaming from the internet. If your child has this application on their device, it is usually the sign of communications that may represent a risk to them. Please carefully monitor your child's device and internet use and talk to them about what they use online and why they use it. The Telegram App is pictured above...



YOUNGMINDS

Young Minds have some great resources to support parents with a child with drug misuse concerns:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/drugs-and-alcohol/>

Shifts in mood & personality

- Sullen, withdrawn, or depressed
- Less motivated
- Silent, uncommunicative
- Hostile, angry, uncooperative
- Deceitful or secretive
- Unable to focus
- A sudden loss of inhibitions
- Hyperactive or unusually elated

Behavioural changes

- Changed relationships with family or friends
- Absenteeism or a loss of interest in school, work or other activities
- Avoids eye contact. Locks doors
- Disappears for long periods of time
- Goes out often, frequently breaking curfew
- Secretive with the use of their phone
- Makes endless excuses
- Uses chewing gum or mints to cover up breath
- Often uses over-the-counter prepara-

Physical health

- Frequent sickness
- Unusually tired and/or lethargic
- Unable to speak intelligibly, slurred speech or rapid-fire speech
- Nosebleeds and/or runny nose, not caused by allergies or a cold
- Sores, spots around mouth
- Sudden or dramatic weight loss or gain
- Skin abrasions/bruises
- Frequent perspiration
- Seizures and/or vomiting

Online Safety



Safer
Internet
Day 2024 | Tuesday
6 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre



We will be sharing **acceptable use agreements** with our students next week, as part of our ongoing work to keep children safe online, and as part of our support for **safer internet day (6th Feb)**.

These agreements make explicit what is expected with technology use in **and** outside the academy.

Students have also been developing Podcasts in IT lessons to support staying safe online...

Do you know?

- What your child's **digital footprint** looks like? If you could analyse all of their posts, uploads, downloads, likes, comments and websites visited...what would it look like? How do you know?
- In the academy, we use sophisticated filtering and monitoring software that alerts us to unsafe web searches, scans user spaces for any inappropriate files.
- Keeps the network safe from malware that may be attempted to be downloaded, installed or stored on devices

Children's mental health week:

We will be celebrating children's mental health week next week through our assembly programme and other activities. We also plan to engage in the Optimus 'Wellbeing Award' for students and staff to mark all the fantastic work we do in supporting our academy community with their wellbeing and resilience.



Do you know?

Our flagship and unique onsite first tier support for children's mental health **HEAD-SPACE** is a planned intervention to support children who are struggling with their wellbeing, resilience, emotions and mental health. It is ran by our trained staff and led by Mrs Bryan and Mrs Featherstone. We are very grateful for their leadership of this key and unique support structure for our young people. **#MindMatters**

Contacts:

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

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

Half Term Holiday:

Academy staff **will not be available to support** safeguarding of children at half term, 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 academy February half term should you have a concern about your own child or another child. Also, listed here:

In the next issue...

Child criminal exploitation, social media, discrimination and equality. **#StaySafe**