



THE BRUNTS ACADEMY

Safeguarding Newsletter



Welcome to our new safeguarding publication.

The safeguarding of our children will always be our number one priority.

We have had a very positive start to the new term which has included two training sessions for all staff in safeguarding and child protection. Thankfully, we also continue to receive highly effective support from The Greenwood Academies Trust and their Safeguarding Directorate, ensuring we are fully compliant with all safeguarding policies and procedures. Additionally, we've expanded our safeguarding team to ensure we can continue to support any child that has a safeguarding concern or may be at risk.

We need your help!

Protecting children is always most effective when people work together. We value your communications and your input into supporting child safety and welfare and we also know that parents/carers can often feel overwhelmed or 'out of touch' with what to do in the event of a concern, especially regarding online safety and the internet. We would like to run an initial workshop in supporting parents and carers to keep their child/children safe online. If you feel this would be a useful opportunity please complete the form below. This will only take 2 minutes and will assist us in planning for events that best meet your needs. Please complete this by 29/9/2023

<https://forms.office.com/e/wWzUjqAsFD>

Concerned about any child?

If you have any concerns about a student or any member of our community you can contact the Nottinghamshire MASH Team out of hours (after 5pm) on their out of office number: **0300 456 4546**

You can also contact MASH during office hours on the number below. Referrals can be made anonymously on: **0300 500 80 90**

MASH will also take online referrals on their website.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-and-families-alliance/pathway-to-provision/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>

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Safeguarding is:

- Protecting children from abuse
- Preventing harm to their development
- Providing safe and effective care
- Promoting the best outcomes for children



Site Safety

We have noted in the first two weeks of term, that the exit from the Academy to **Bath Lane**, is not as safe as it needs to be. This is largely due to the volume of traffic, and a consequence of increased number of children attending the Academy. Consequently, we are taking actions to safeguard our children and ensure there are no incidents or accidents at the end of each day, that could result in serious injury to a child.

From Monday 25th September, we are politely requesting that parents/carers **DO NOT park ANYWHERE on the entrance/exit road from Bath Lane at the end of the day**. Parked vehicles on this exit from the Academy site are creating hazards for children and we will politely ask you to move your vehicle if you do park there—in the interests of child safety.

We would kindly request that your child walks home if they are able to; that you car share, or that you park offsite to collect your child. Please see below...

There are approximately 12 parking spaces in the pick up/drop off spot immediately after the main vehicle gate. Once these are full, please park outside the Academy drive on Bath Lane, Sandy Lane or Ravensdale Road.

If your child has a disability, or short term mobility difficulties, i.e. they are on crutches, please park in the accessible pick up area.

Parking

There are over 150 free on street parking spaces on Bath Lane, Sandy Lane, and Ravensdale Road (images below). There is also a pedestrian crossing at the end of the Academy drive so that children can safely cross the road. Members of staff will be on duty at this exit to ensure a safe departure from the site.



“Safeguarding is everyone”

Cycle Safety

It is excellent that many of our students choose the healthy option of cycling to the academy and home again at the end of the day. It is important however, that children who do cycle have a bike that is roadworthy, and, in the winter months has reflectors and functioning lights. Please could you ensure your child’s bike is safe to ride should they chose to cycle to the academy?

We strongly recommend wearing a **cycle helmet**, when cycling. This is not a legal requirement in the UK, however, it can mean the difference between life and death in the event of a collision. We also recommend wearing something bright during the winter months so that your child can be easily seen by motorists.

From Monday 25th September, we will be ensuring any child who uses a bicycle to travel to the academy, walks their bike down to Bath Lane, if they use this exit. There have been recent incidences with a small minority riding recklessly down the hill and straight out onto Bath Lane. Walking to the exit is safer and will only take a few minutes longer, we will communicate this information to our students but would also ask you to support us by discussing this and, in particular, the reasons for the change.



Motorised e-scooters are **currently illegal** to ride on UK roads unless they are part of an authorised scheme. Mansfield does not have such a scheme. These scooters will not be permitted on site.

Manual scooters may be used as a method of transport, but the same guidelines will be in place about safe exit to Bath Lane i.e. walk them down to the exit.

We will be issuing cycle permits over the next few weeks for students who wish to use their bike or manual scooter to travel to the academy. These will remain in place for the academic year, but may be withdrawn if a child is seen to be cycling in a dangerous or unsafe manner which puts themselves or others at risk, including, for example, wheelies on public highways. We expect our students to cycle safely in line with highway code guidelines.



Have an appointment?

If you have an appointment with a member of staff, during the academy day, could you please access the site via Park Avenue. This means that you will be able to walk straight to reception and not across our safeguarding perimeter. Please go straight to reception to sign in and read the safeguarding information so that you understand expectations and arrangements for safeguarding while you are on site. You will be issued with a visitors lanyard when you arrive. Please wear this at all times when being escorted around the academy buildings. You will also need to sign out on departure. Thank-you.

Vaping

In recent weeks we have seen an increased number of students having or using vapes around the Academy site. Sadly, this is an issue in most secondary schools, and many primary schools too.

Students have been buying single use vapes, which are often brightly coloured, so they look like highlighters, and are fruity flavours. These flavours often appeal to young people. Students have been purchasing these from the internet and some local retailers are also selling them to young people.

It is **illegal** for a shop/website or any adult to sell a vape to anyone under the age of 18. This includes vaping materials like 'vape juice/liquid'.

You can report a shop or website at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>

While vapes are used to help adult smokers to quit smoking cigarettes there is no reason that young people should start vaping. There are a range of health risks to vapes. Single use vapes, which are the easiest to obtain, have been found to contain metals such as lead, nickel and chromium. These metals are all poisonous and should not be inhaled or ingested. Vapes are also addictive and contain nicotine. An addiction to nicotine can increase anxiety and stress as the young person struggles to control their addiction. Vapes should not be used to deal with mental health or anxiety issues. They will make them worse. If your child is using a vape for these reasons, please contact our pastoral or safeguarding staff.

Some refillable vapes can contain THC, which is the liquid form of cannabis (a Class B illegal drug).

The Government are very concerned about young people vaping and have established a task force to look at changes in the Law and also improved support for young people to better understand the dangers of e-cigarette use.

Please help us by educating our students about the dangers of vaping, the long term impact is not even known fully by scientists at this point...

If you are concerned about a child in school please contact us, if it is 'non-urgent'.

If urgent– please contact the Police or MASH

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In the next issue...

Anti-bullying—policy and practice

Mental Health (Wellbeing and resilience)

