# Primary school pupil’s WWII grenade sparks evacuation and prompts calls for better education



In a startling incident that has both surprised and raised concerns among parents, a primary school pupil in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, brought a suspected World War II grenade to his school's show-and-tell assembly. The event at Osmaston CofE Primary School unfolded dramatically on a Friday, resulting in an immediate evacuation of the premises and the swift arrival of bomb disposal experts.

Head teacher Jeanette Hart was the first to react when a child presented not just an old bullet case, which had been pre-approved, but an unexpected hand grenade. “It was going fine and there was a boy who brought an old bullet case in, which I knew about, but then his friend produced a hand grenade from his pocket. That, I was not expecting,” she remarked in an interview with the BBC. Hart acted quickly, confiscating the grenade and placing it behind a robust tree in the school's car park while calling for emergency services. The device was eventually confirmed to pose no threat to the students or staff, as military investigators determined it was an inert family relic taken without parental knowledge.

This incident is not isolated. Similar occurrences have been reported across various schools in the UK and the US, highlighting an alarming trend of students unknowingly bringing historical weaponry to school. For instance, at Parkside Community School in Chesterfield, another Derbyshire institution, a student brought an old grenade to a history lesson, necessitating a partial evacuation while authorities determined the grenade had been decommissioned and posed no danger.

In West Sussex, a Year Eight pupil from Oakmeeds Community School found a grenade during a trip to Newhaven Fort and thoughtlessly brought it to his class, prompting a prompt evacuation. The grenade was also confirmed to be inert, and the school's response was commended for handling the situation effectively.

These incidents raise important questions about educating children regarding historical artefacts and the potential hazards associated with them. The actions of the children, while innocent, underline a need for vigilance and communication within families about the nature of potentially dangerous historical objects that may be found or inherited.

In the United States, incidents have mirrored the trends seen in the UK. In Massachusetts, an eight-year-old boy brought an inert World War II grenade to his school for show-and-tell, leading to a brief evacuation while authorities assessed the situation. Similarly, in Michigan, a second-grade student brought a grenade to Elliott Elementary School, prompting a lockdown. In each case, the grenades were determined to be inactive, with no injuries reported.

These events highlight the critical necessity for schools to maintain effective communication with parents and to provide guidance on how to respond should a similar situation occur. As Hart stated, "I tried to avoid a panic... I thought it might be safe but I didn't want to take the risk." Parents are urged to discuss with their children the implications of bringing such items to school, stressing that while curiosity is natural, safety must come first.

In conclusion, while these incidents have thus far resulted in no harm, they serve as a stark reminder of the potential hazards found in everyday objects and the necessity for clear communication and education to ensure the safety of children in school environments.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Paragraph 5
3. Paragraph 6
4. Paragraph 7
5. Paragraph 8
6. Paragraph 9
7. Paragraph 10

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056570/primary-school-evacuated-boy-brings-ww2-grenade> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-58909456> - A student brought an old hand grenade into a history lesson at Parkside Community School in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, prompting a partial evacuation. Police and a military bomb disposal team were called to the scene. The grenade was examined and confirmed to have been decommissioned, posing no threat. The school has been contacted for a comment.
3. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/9058557.newhaven-schoolboy-brings-world-war-two-grenade-into-school/> - A Year Eight pupil at Oakmeeds Community School in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, found a World War Two grenade during a school trip to Newhaven Fort. Instead of reporting it, he brought it to class, leading to an evacuation. The grenade was confirmed to be inert and removed by bomb disposal officers. The school praised the students and staff for their exemplary conduct during the incident.
4. <https://www.foxnews.com/story/massachusetts-school-evacuated-after-boy-brings-grenade-for-show-and-tell> - An 8-year-old boy brought an inert World War Two-era grenade to Ezra Baker School in Dennis, Massachusetts, for show and tell. The school was briefly evacuated as a precaution. Authorities determined the device was inactive and posed no danger. The incident was treated as an innocent mistake by the student.
5. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/mich-school-locked-down-after-student-brings-grenade-for-show-and-tell> - Elliott Elementary School in Holt, Michigan, was placed on temporary lockdown after a second-grade student brought a grenade to school for show-and-tell. The Michigan State Police bomb squad declared the World War II-era device inactive. No injuries were reported, and no charges were expected. The school was searched, and no other potential explosives were found.
6. <https://whdh.com/news/wayland-elementary-school-evacuated-after-student-finds-world-war-ii-grenade-on-property/> - Loker Elementary School in Wayland, Massachusetts, was evacuated after a student found an inert World War II grenade on the property. Emergency crews responded, and the State Police Bomb Squad determined the grenade was not explosive. The incident was under investigation, and there was no danger to the public.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-29571875> - Croesyceiliog School in Cwmbran, Wales, was evacuated after a pupil brought a suspected World War Two hand grenade to class. Bomb disposal experts confirmed the device was a piece of 'war memorabilia' and did not contain explosives. There was no danger posed, and no harm was caused to anyone.