# Child's WW2 grenade at Osmaston school prompts evacuation but proves harmless



In a startling incident at Osmaston CofE Primary School in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, a child brought a suspected World War II grenade to a show-and-tell assembly, prompting an immediate evacuation. The event unfolded on a recent Friday, resulting in swift action from emergency services, including the arrival of bomb disposal experts. The head teacher, Jeanette Hart, acted quickly to confiscate the grenade, which had been presented during the assembly, and placed it behind a sturdy tree in the school car park, waiting for the authorities to assess the situation. Following inspection by military personnel, it was confirmed that the grenade posed no threat; it turned out to be a family relic that the boy had taken without his parents' knowledge.

Reflecting on the shocking moment, Hart elaborated in an interview with the BBC, stating: "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 recounted her efforts to maintain composure and avoid panic, explaining that while the grenade appeared old and possibly safe, she preferred not to take any chances.

This incident is not isolated; similar occurrences have unfolded across the UK and beyond. For instance, in 2001, a ten-year-old at Chudleigh Primary School in Devon brought a WW2 shell to class, leading to an evacuation until authorities confirmed it was safe. Similarly, in 2009, a Year Eight pupil at Oakmeeds Community School in Newhaven presented a grenade found on a school trip, resulting in another precautionary evacuation. In September 2021, Parkside Community School in Chesterfield faced a similar scenario when a student brought an old hand grenade, which was also later deemed harmless by a military team.

Across the Atlantic, incidents involving children bringing grenades to school are not unheard of either. In 2010, an eight-year-old in Massachusetts introduced an inert grenade for show-and-tell at Ezra Baker School, prompting a brief evacuation. Likewise, in 2011, a second-grader at a Michigan school brought a grenade for the same purpose, leading to a lockdown until the police bomb squad determined the device posed no threat.

Authorities encourage caution with such items, particularly as curiosity can turn into serious emergencies. Parents are advised to discuss safety with their children regarding the handling of any potentially dangerous objects, especially those connecting to historical events such as World War II. In a time when awareness surrounding explosive weapons and their remnants is crucial, the importance of communication between children and parents cannot be overstated.

As schools and communities navigate these unusual yet unsettling events, the focus remains on ensuring safety while fostering curiosity in educational environments. Overall, while many of these incidents conclude without real danger, the initial response and alarm highlight the critical balance between curiosity and safety in today's educational settings.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: (1)
2. Paragraph 2: (1)
3. Paragraph 3: (2), (3), (4)
4. Paragraph 4: (5), (6)
5. Paragraph 5: (7)
6. Paragraph 6: (1), (4)

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://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/uk/newsid_1695000/1695319.stm> - In December 2001, a 10-year-old student at Chudleigh Primary School in Devon, UK, brought a 15cm long World War II-era shell to class for show-and-tell. The teacher took the shell outside, and the school was evacuated as a precaution. Police and bomb disposal experts confirmed the shell was safe, and no harm was caused.
3. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/9058557.newhaven-schoolboy-brings-world-war-two-grenade-into-school/> - In 2009, a Year Eight pupil at Oakmeeds Community School in Newhaven, UK, brought a World War II grenade to class after finding it during a school trip. The teacher immediately contacted authorities, leading to the evacuation of part of the school. Bomb disposal experts confirmed the grenade was not live, and no harm was caused.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-58909456> - In September 2021, a student at Parkside Community School in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, UK, brought an old hand grenade to a history lesson. The school was evacuated, and a military bomb disposal team confirmed the grenade had been decommissioned and posed no threat.
5. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/mich-school-locked-down-after-student-brings-grenade-for-show-and-tell> - In 2011, a second-grade student at Elliott Elementary School in Holt, Michigan, USA, brought a grenade to school for show-and-tell. The school was placed on temporary lockdown, and the Michigan State Police bomb squad determined the device was inactive and posed no threat.
6. <https://www.foxnews.com/story/massachusetts-school-evacuated-after-boy-brings-grenade-for-show-and-tell> - In 2010, an 8-year-old boy brought an inert World War II-era grenade to Ezra Baker School in Dennis, Massachusetts, USA, for show-and-tell. The school was briefly evacuated, and the device was turned over to the state police bomb squad for disposal.
7. <https://whdh.com/news/wayland-elementary-school-evacuated-after-student-finds-world-war-ii-grenade-on-property/> - In September 2024, a student found an inert World War II grenade on the grounds of Loker Elementary School in Wayland, Massachusetts, USA. The school was evacuated, and the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad determined the grenade posed no danger and removed it from the premises.