# Primary school evacuated after pupil brings WWII hand grenade to assembly



A primary school in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, found itself at the centre of a significant safety alert after a pupil brought an old hand grenade to a show-and-tell assembly. The incident at Osmaston CofE Primary School prompted an immediate evacuation of staff and students, alongside the dispatch of bomb disposal experts to assess the situation.

Headteacher Jeanette Hart recounted the moment when a student produced the World War II-era grenade, describing it as an unexpected twist during the assembly. Initially, another student had shown a bullet case, which had been communicated to her beforehand. However, the arrival of the grenade took her by surprise. “It was quite an eventful assembly… that, I was not expecting,” she remarked in a statement to the BBC.

Mrs Hart acted swiftly upon realising the potential danger posed by the grenade. Unsure whether it was live, she carefully took it from the pupil and placed it behind a substantial tree in the school’s car park while arrangements were made for emergency services to handle the situation. “I ended the assembly, took it off him and slowly carried it outside… I wasn’t 100 percent happy carrying it, to be honest,” she admitted.

Fortunately, army bomb disposal experts later confirmed through X-ray examination that the grenade was safe, alleviating concerns for both staff and students. The police praised the quick actions of the school’s staff, encouraging vigilance in home environments. A spokesperson for the Matlock, Cromford, Wirksworth and Darley Dale Police Safer Neighbourhood Team provided a word of caution to parents and guardians to double-check what their children might bring to show-and-tell, especially if the items are family heirlooms.

In the aftermath, Mrs Hart recounted a conversation with the young boy, who had brought the grenade, noting that it was an entirely innocent mistake. He had discovered the grenade, a family heirloom, and brought it to school without understanding its significance. “His family didn’t know and they were a little taken aback,” she added.

This incident highlights growing concerns about the safety of such items in educational settings. Past occurrences in various schools across the UK reflect a pattern of evacuations prompted by similar discoveries. For instance, a student at Parkside Community School in Chesterfield faced a similar situation when they brought in a grenade, which was later confirmed as decommissioned; the school was allowed to reopen following a thorough investigation.

Moreover, in Macmerry Primary School in East Lothian, grenades unearthed during excavation prompted evacuation, resulting in a controlled explosion taken care of by army officers. These scenarios underscore the importance of education regarding historical memorabilia and the potential dangers they may pose if brought to schools.

In a broader context, such incidents not only test the responsiveness of school emergency protocols but also highlight the need for parental education about the historical items children may come across at home. Awareness campaigns may be necessary to prevent such alarming situations, as illustrated by recent cases across the UK and the impact they have on school communities.

As attention turns to safety measures and educational outreach, the Osmaston situation serves as a reminder of the unexpected challenges schools can face, relying on the vigilance and quick decision-making of their staff to ensure the safety of their students.

### Reference Map

1. Lead article
2. Related incidents in Derbyshire
3. Historical context of explosives in schools
4. Broader implications and previous examples of similar incidents

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14720981/primary-school-evacuated-pupil-hand-grenade-assembly-army.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-58909456> - A student brought an old hand grenade into a history lesson at Parkside Community School in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, leading to the evacuation of students and staff. Police were called, and a military bomb disposal team confirmed the grenade had been decommissioned, allowing the school to reopen after the all-clear was given.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-22217719> - Macmerry Primary School near Tranent, East Lothian, was evacuated after World War II grenades were discovered by workmen during excavation. Children were taken to a nearby village hall, and the grenades were destroyed in a controlled explosion by Army officers.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-29571875> - Croesyceiliog School in Cwmbran was evacuated after a pupil brought a suspected World War II hand grenade to class. Bomb disposal experts determined the device was a piece of 'war memorabilia' and did not contain explosives, leading to the safe return of students to their lessons.
5. <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/dudley/2023/01/05/dudley-school-reopens-after-army-bomb-disposal-experts-examine-suspicious-items/> - Ellowes Hall Sports College in Dudley was closed after army bomb disposal experts examined 'suspicious items' found nearby. The school reopened after the items were deemed safe, though the nature of the items was not disclosed.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-30232752> - Two schools in Lowestoft, Northfields St Nicholas Primary and St Margaret's Primary, were evacuated after a World War II grenade was discovered in a nearby garage. The bomb disposal squad confirmed the grenade was not live, and students returned to their lessons after the all-clear was given.
7. <https://www.itv.com/news/central/2024-07-01/residents-evacuated-after-a-hand-grenade-was-reportedly-found-in-birmingham> - Residents and school pupils were evacuated in Birmingham after a suspected hand grenade was found in a back garden. Emergency services cordoned off the area, and the Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team attended to examine the item.