# Pupil’s World War II grenade sparks evacuation at Derbyshire primary school



In a startling incident at Osmaston CofE Primary School in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, a pupil brought a suspected World War II grenade to a show-and-tell assembly, prompting immediate evacuation and the deployment of bomb disposal experts. The revelation occurred during a Friday gathering, when the child displayed the explosive device, identified as a grade 5 explosive, sending administrators and parents into a state of alarm. Headteacher Jeanette Hart acted swiftly, recalling, “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.”

In a bid to prevent panic, Hart made the decision to confiscate the item and safely placed it behind a sturdy tree in the car park while awaiting the arrival of emergency services. Fortunately, upon inspection, military personnel confirmed that the grenade posed no threat, ultimately revealing it to be an innocuous family relic taken without the parents’ knowledge.

This incident mirrors several similar events across the UK, where old explosive devices have sparked concern and led to evacuations in schools. For instance, Macmerry Primary School in East Lothian experienced a similar panic when World War II grenades were unearthed during excavation work. Authorities swiftly relocated the children to a nearby village hall, and Army officers later disposed of the grenades in a controlled explosion. Such situations have prompted consistent warnings from police and educational authorities across the UK for the public to refrain from handling suspicious items and to report them immediately.

In Lowestoft, Suffolk, a comparable situation arose when two schools were evacuated after a grenade was discovered in a nearby garage. Following police intervention and subsequent examination by a bomb disposal squad, it was confirmed that the grenade was not live, allowing students to return without incident. Parallel events have also occurred in Wales, where a school was evacuated after a pupil brought in what turned out to be harmless war memorabilia, reinforcing the necessity of stringent protocols regarding items brought to school.

Moreover, a review of school policies on educational events like show-and-tell has often followed these incidents. At Kingsacre Primary School in North Devon, concerns regarding a World War II explosive brought in for a similar session led to a military detonation of the item and a reassessment of the school’s procedures.

Reflecting on the broader context, the issue not only highlights the historical legacy of World War II but also raises critical questions about the importance of education regarding the potential dangers associated with unexploded ordnance. Schools are increasingly tasked with balancing the enthusiasm of show-and-tell events and the safety of pupils. Hart’s measured response underscores the need for vigilance in such scenarios, asserting, “It looked old and I thought it might be safe but I didn't want to take the risk.”

In summary, the incident at Osmaston CofE Primary School serves as a reminder of the unexpected hazards posed by relics from the past, prompting ongoing discussions about safety protocols in educational settings across the country.

### Reference Map

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

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.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-22217719> - Macmerry Primary School in East Lothian, Scotland, was evacuated after World War II grenades were discovered during excavation work. Children were relocated to a village hall, and the grenades were destroyed in a controlled explosion by Army officers. The incident prompted authorities to advise the public to avoid handling such items and to contact the police if found.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-30232752> - Two schools in Lowestoft, Suffolk, were evacuated after a World War II grenade was found in a nearby garage. Police advised residents to leave and closed surrounding roads. The bomb disposal squad confirmed the grenade was not live, and the police cordon was lifted, allowing pupils to return to their lessons.
4. <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 II hand grenade to class. Bomb disposal experts determined the device was a piece of 'war memorabilia' and did not contain explosives. The incident was deemed a 'false alarm,' and no harm was caused to anyone.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-58909456> - Parkside Community School in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, was partially evacuated after a student brought an old hand grenade into a history lesson. Police and a military bomb disposal team were called to the scene. The grenade was examined and confirmed to have been decommissioned, allowing students and staff to return to the school.
6. <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 Newhaven, East Sussex, brought a World War II grenade into class after finding it during a school trip to Newhaven Fort. The school was evacuated, and bomb disposal experts confirmed the grenade was not live. The incident led to a review of the school's 'show and tell' procedures.
7. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2019-02-05/bomb-squad-detonates-world-war-two-shell-taken-into-north-devon-school-for-show-and-tell> - Kingsacre Primary School in Braunton, North Devon, was involved in an incident where a World War II explosive device was brought in for 'show and tell.' Concerns about the device's safety led to its detonation by a military bomb squad. The school reviewed its procedures for such events following the incident.