

13th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Helping our schools remain safe places for all

We are writing to you jointly as the headteachers of TSAT's schools in Portsmouth about the crucial topic of safety at school. As you know, our highest priority is the safety and wellbeing of our community – our pupils, staff and parents.

Over the past few weeks, you may be aware that there have been a number of antisocial incidents in our local community here in Portsmouth, as well as in other regions across the country. Alongside this, a small number of prohibited items have been brought into two of our schools. Please be assured that we followed our robust protocols and that all our pupils and staff are safe and well. However, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the actions we are continuing to take to ensure our schools remain safe places for all pupils and staff:

Educating our pupils – our pupils have an active role to play in keeping our school safe. We are holding extra assemblies as well as PSHE lessons and activities to help pupils understand how to stay safe. These are delivered in an age-appropriate way to help pupils understand the importance of safety. We also make clear the consequences of bringing in unauthorised items. They must never bring any banned item into school. If they believe another pupil may have brought an unsafe item into school, they should report it immediately to a member of staff.

Clear policies - we have a clear policy and expectations when it comes to prohibited items. This is available on our websites and regularly communicated with our pupils, staff and parents.

Checking – we will check pupils' belongings when necessary in order to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff. This is done in line with our behaviour policies.

Swift responses – we respond immediately to any potential safety concerns. Our leadership and safeguarding staff know how to respond to concerns straight away.

Working with other agencies – we work closely with the necessary authorities to protect our school communities. This includes working with our schools' liaison teams at Hampshire Police and working with other groups and guest speakers to help reinforce our messages to pupils.

Working with you – parents and carers are vital to help keep our schools safe. Please speak with your child about the risks of carrying prohibited items. Please check their bag regularly to ensure they are not bringing anything unsafe into school. If you have concerns that your child, or any other pupil, may be carrying a prohibited item, please contact the school immediately.

Sanctions - bringing any dangerous item into school poses a serious risk to the safety of everyone in our community. If pupils bring in banned items, our schools will apply significant sanctions. This will reflect the seriousness of the situation and our commitment to keeping our schools safe. Depending on the circumstances, this may include permanent exclusion and police involvement.



Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that our schools remain a safe place for all pupils and staff. Please reinforce the messages in this letter by talking with your child about how to keep themselves and other safe.

We are committed to working together to continue to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment and appreciate all your support. Together, we can help to transform life chances.

If you or your child have any questions or need advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Botting".

Daniel Botting
Executive Principal
The Portsmouth Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.S. Webb".

Anna Webb
Executive Head
Penbridge Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Paine".

Sara Paine
Executive Head
Meon Way Federation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Jones".

Jack Jones
Headteacher
New Horizons Primary School