

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Enhancing School Safety: Introduction of Security Screening Arches in Secondary Schools

We are pleased to announce an important new initiative designed to further enhance the safety and security of our secondary school communities. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all our learners, staff, and visitors, we are introducing security screening arches at the entrances of all secondary schools within Dudley Academies Trust.

We recognise that 99% of our learners are trustworthy citizens who respect the values of our school communities, and this initiative is aimed at providing an extra layer of security to ensure that all of us can continue to thrive in a safe environment.

This initiative is part of our proactive approach to safeguarding our school communities. The installation of security screening arches will provide an additional layer of protection to help us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone. We are pleased to share the following benefits of this initiative:

- **Enhanced Safety:** The arches will strengthen the security of our school premises.
- **Peace of Mind:** Learners, parents/carers, and staff can feel reassured that proactive measures are in place.
- **A Positive Learning Environment:** By ensuring a secure environment, we will continue to support the focus on academic growth and personal development.

As part of this process, we recently conducted a stakeholder survey that showed overwhelming support for this initiative. One respondent captured the sentiment perfectly: *"Such measures are a MUST to help ensure our children are safe in the school environment. It would provide peace of mind for parents and learners."* This feedback has been invaluable and underscores our shared priority of safety and well-being.

All secondary school sites have been carefully assessed to identify the most appropriate locations for each screening arch. This has required considerable planning, as there is significant work involved, including some building modifications, to ensure that the arches can be properly and effectively accommodated in these spaces. This will ensure that the security arches integrate seamlessly into our school environment while maintaining a smooth flow of daily activities.

This initiative is an integral part of our overall safety strategy, which is focused on creating a safe and supportive space for everyone in our school community. By integrating these advanced security measures, we continue to take a holistic approach to safety that includes prevention, preparedness, and responsiveness. We are delighted to have the full support of West Midlands Police, whose expertise will be invaluable throughout this process.

Dudley Academies Trust

The Drawbridge, Unit 2, Castle Court, Castlegate Way, Dudley, DY1 4RD
Chair of the Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams
Chief Executive Officer: Jo Higgins



Ensuring the success of this initiative relies heavily on comprehensive staff training, which is a top priority for us. Senior leaders and Learning Managers will undergo in-depth training, supported by the expertise and guidance of West Midlands Police. This training will equip our staff with a thorough understanding of how to operate the security screening arches effectively and how to manage any situations that may arise with confidence and professionalism. We are committed to providing our staff with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to maintain a safe, secure, and supportive environment for everyone in our school community. This proactive approach will help ensure that all protocols are followed consistently, and that safety remains our shared priority.

In the coming weeks, we will share a detailed timeline for the installation of the screening arches. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are confident that this initiative will further strengthen our school community and ensure a continued focus on safety and well-being. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to maintain the highest standards of safety for our learners and staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jo Higgins'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jo Higgins
Chief Executive Officer