



SUBJECT: School's D&T Trauma

RECIPIENTS: All LCC Schools

ISSUE DATE: March 2017 **REF:** HSB79

School Design & Technology Injury

A local authority has been sentenced following an incident where a twelve-year-old schoolboy was left with serious hand injuries.

The boy was using a belt sanding machine for the first time during a Design and Technology class, in order to make a wooden animal shape. He had been shown how to use it by a fellow pupil, but none of the pupils knew the purpose of the metal guard for the sanding belt, which was at that time in a raised position. When the schoolboy put his wooden shape to the belt, it pulled his left hand forward and trapped it in place while the machine continued to operate. The top of the boy's left middle finger had to be amputated down to the knuckle and he was absent from school for several weeks.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuting said the teacher had not received adequate training to recognise that the machine was in an unsafe condition, or to recognise the risk of allowing pupils to use the machinery unsupervised and without suitable training. The Design and Technology class had been without a technician for 8 weeks prior to the incident; on the day of the incident the teacher was supervising the class alone.

The council was fined £200,000 and ordered to pay full costs of £19,865.

After the hearing HSE inspector said: "It is important to create a safe teaching environment for pupils where they can learn to appreciate and manage the risks they will face in life.

"If the teacher had been appropriately trained on how to use the equipment for the lesson, they would have been able to show the pupils how to properly use the sanding machine. Instead a young boy sustained an extremely painful injury that could have easily been avoided."

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact the LCC Corporate Health & Safety Team at: corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk