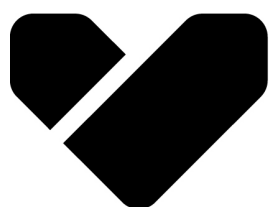




WE STAND TOGETHER



Birmingham
City Council

School Noticeboard

Special Edition: Tuesday 23 May 2017

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From the Director

Dear colleagues

Today we are coming to terms with the grim news from Manchester. Unbelievable that young children and their families have been the target of a terrorist attack in our neighbouring city just up the M6. We can see from the news bulletins that people right across the North West of England are pulling together and doing what they can to help.

We know that the thoughts and prayers of all schools in Birmingham will be there for Manchester right now. In this edition of Noticeboard we have compiled advice, useful links and contacts that may be helpful to schools in the city.

The advice from West Midlands Police is that schools should carry on as normal and not cancel any planned trips, including to the city centre. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need support today or in the weeks ahead. Contact details are below.

We will include security briefings and broader information at the forthcoming round of Headteacher Briefings taking place next month. But right now, please check out the powerpoint produced by Ayisha Ali for use in schools now. This presentation is attached with this Noticeboard. Please feel free to adapt this presentation to suit your school's needs.

I will be at this evening's vigil in Victoria Square to show solidarity with our friends in Manchester. Hope to see some of you there.

Best wishes

Colin



[@anfieldexile](https://twitter.com/anfieldexile)

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Message from Cllr Brigid Jones and Cllr Tristan Chatfield

Writing to you after a terror attack is awful. Writing to you after an attack that targeted children and young people, just like you, is something we never thought we'd have to do. By the time you read this there will be more information out about who has been injured, killed and lost loved ones, but one thing we do know is that they will be ordinary people just like you and me, from a city just like ours.

Our job is to protect children and young people like you from harm in our city, to make sure you have the best time growing up, and to have great schools and opportunities for your futures. There are more than 400 head teachers, 800 social workers, 26,000 teachers and hundreds of police

officers and other workers here in our city who make it their lives work to help you give you those futures. Your parents, carers and families, as well, look out for you and look after you every day. It's just the same in Manchester, and all across Britain, from Derry to London, from Cornwall to Scotland; all over Britain we believe in giving you the best start in life.

The actual attack was carried out by one man. As we write this, we don't know yet why he decided to attack children and young people; but we know that, for him to do so, his values are the opposite of ours, and of all those thousands of people in the city who are rooting for you and working for you. Nothing we can do can bring the dead back. But we can stand up against him and what he wanted to achieve by making sure the dead are never forgotten, by sticking to our values, and by living to the full the lives that he thinks we shouldn't have.

However many people there are out there who don't want us to succeed, they will be tiny compared to the millions of us who believe in our values and believe in you, and are doing all we can to help you and protect you. Please take a moment today to think of the victims in Manchester, who are just like us, and make sure they're not forgotten. And please take a moment to think of all the millions of people who believe in British values and will carry on fighting to protect them, and you.

Cllr Brigid Jones
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools

Cllr Tristan Chatfield
Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality

Advice from Jill Crosbie for supporting pupils

At this time children will want a chance to express their sorrow about the terrible events in Manchester and many of you will be discussing this in assembly. Reflective writing is often helpful and schools can provide a safe space for children to explore their feelings so you may wish to provide a space for children to record condolences or hold a minute's silence.

Whatever you do, it will help children manage their feelings at this difficult time.

Jill Crosbie, Acting Assistant Director SEND
jill.crosbie@birmingham.gov.uk

Statement from Cllr John Clancy, Cllr Robert Alden and Cllr Jon Hunt

A cross-party statement supporting the Lord Mayors and paying tribute to Manchester has been issued by the three Birmingham City Council Group Leaders:

Birmingham stands firm with our friends in Manchester today.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with the victims, their families and everyone affected by a barbaric act of terror.

This is a dark day but we know that our towns and cities will not be beaten by terror. People will respond as they did in Manchester last night with kindness, bravery and a resolve not to be cowed into submission.

The normal business of Full Council will continue here in Birmingham today and Cllr Anne Underwood will be installed as the city's new Lord Mayor. Understandably Cllr Underwood feels it would be inappropriate to continue with the planned civic dinner this evening and has decided to postpone the event. We fully support her decision. However we will re-schedule the event for a later date.

Today though we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Manchester.

Cllr John Clancy, Cllr Robert Alden and Cllr Jon Hunt

Statement from Cllr Carl Rice and Cllr Anne Underwood

After the awful events of last night in Manchester and as a mark of respect for the families who have lost loved ones or have injured loved ones we have decided to postpone this evening's civic dinner following the Council AGM. Birmingham stands by our sister city in this time of sadness and are sending our condolences to all of those who have been affected. We will hold a minute's silence at the start of Full Council later and will both be thinking of everyone involved.

Cllr Carl Rice and Cllr Anne Underwood

Message to community groups from Waqar Ahmed MBE, Prevent Manager

The message below has been issued to community groups across Birmingham from Waqar Ahmed.

Dear Colleagues,

We woke up this morning to the devastating news of the attack in Manchester yesterday evening. It has been reported that 22 people have lost their lives and many more injured, we also understand that children are amongst those killed. Greater Manchester Police understand that the explosion to be the work of a lone attacker and hence once again our communities are victim to an act of terrorism. Of course, it goes without saying, that this is a time for prayer for those families who have lost loved ones and for unity between our communities standing together against terrorism in all its forms.

The Police have asked for communities not to speculate on the identity or motivation of the attacker as they undertake a very difficult and fast-moving investigation into the attack. West Midlands Police will be reviewing security around the City and we urge all to remain as we have been for a while extra vigilant and report anything suspicious. We will keep colleagues updated with any news as it unfolds.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.

Ofqual statement: advice for schools and students

Many students and teachers are likely to have been affected by the tragic events in Manchester last night. Head teachers are best placed to decide whether exams should go ahead as planned.

We will consider with the exam boards how the provisions that are normally made for students who are unable to sit their exams when planned, or who take their exams but whose performance might be affected, will be applied. Students and their parents should seek advice and information from their schools. Our thoughts are with everyone affected.

This statement is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/manchester-incident-advice-for-schools-and-students>

Support from Educational Psychology

Some young people may have been at Ariana Grande's concert in Birmingham a few days ago and may be particularly frightened by what has happened. The general advice is to allow a contained space to share their concerns with an adult and to provide reassurance. If schools would like advice on how to support students, please contact Educational Psychology.

CONTACT: Amanda Daniels, Principal Educational Psychologist

TEL: 0121 303 0100

EMAIL: amanda.daniels@birmingham.gov.uk

Birmingham City Council Lockdown Guidance

The **BCC Lockdown Guidance**, issued at the safeguarding briefings in Jan and Feb 2016, contains advice about what schools must consider if a situation arises when a group is away from school. This guidance is available at

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/school_lockdown_guidance

Childline advice

There is advice available on the Childline website:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/>

Message from BirminghamWeAre

Given the events of last night in Manchester, Birmingham wants to show solidarity and support for all those affected in whatever appropriate way it can. One way is to give young people a secure channel through which they can effectively voice their collective views and opinions, and engage and inspire others. Yesterday evening ahead of the tragedy unfolding in Manchester, the Lord

Mayor of Birmingham and Lady Mayoress attended a Celebration of Birmingham and listened to some wonderful poetry and singing from inspirational young people across Birmingham.

In the light of yesterday evening, BirminghamWeAre, organisers of the event in Birmingham will be opening up a new digital space via www.BirminghamWeAre.com to provide a secure digital channel and environment through which young people can Speak Out.

YoungPeopleSpeakOut will be focussed specifically on giving a Voice for the young and amongst the initiatives being planned will be events to demonstrate solidarity with young people wherever they may live.

Statement from Muslim Council of Britain

MANCHESTER TERROR ATTACK MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN RESPONSE

"My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. I understand teenagers and children have been caught up in what the police has confirmed to be a terrorist attack.

This is horrific, this is criminal. May the perpetrators face the full weight of justice both in this life and the next.

I pay tribute to the police and emergency services who have worked valiantly to save lives last night. They were helped by civilians who rushed into offer their support. I urge all those in the region and around the country to pool together to support those affected."

Harun Khan
Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain

Message of solidarity from Birmingham and West Midlands Jewish Community

Birmingham and West Midlands Jewish Community wish to express sincere condolences to all those affected by the terrorist attack in Manchester last night. We have the victims and families in our prayers and will be holding a prayer service at Singers Hill Synagogue tonight at 8pm for those who wish to attend.