

Birmingham City Council

School Noticeboard

Special Edition: Monday 19 June 2017

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From the Director

Dear Colleagues

After a weekend when many of us celebrated the life of Jo Cox MP, it is distressing to write to you once again in the wake of another terrorist attack.

Last night a peaceful congregation was dispersing after prayers at Finsbury Park Mosque when they were mown down by a man driving a van. This act was designed to undermine our fundamental and deep seated values in Great Britain. The right to collective worship in all religions is paramount.

As we approach Eid, schools in the city will be preparing to celebrate. I have noticed how this year lftar has become a more inclusive with all sections of the community being invited to join in. We must continue to learn together and fully celebrate the end of Ramadan and Eid. Our colleagues in West Midlands Police will be extra vigilant out in the community to keep us all safe.

We hope that the materials in this Red Noticeboard are helpful. Thanks for everything that you do in Birmingham's schools to promote such a powerful culture of inclusion: truly a beacon in our country. And if you need us on the front line, don't hesitate to make contact.

Best wishes

Colin



Colin Diamond, Corporate Director Anne Ainsworth, Assistant Director Emma Leaman, Assistant Director Jill Crosbie, Acting Assistant Director Julie Young, Interim Assistant Director Razia Butt, Resilience Adviser (tel 07956 878 288) Jon Needham, Safeguarding Adviser colin.diamond@birmingham.gov.uk anne.ainsworth@birmingham.gov.uk emma.leaman@birmingham.gov.uk jill.crosbie@birmingham.gov.uk julie.h.young@birmingham.gov.uk razia.butt@birmingham.gov.uk jon.j.needham@birmingham.gov.uk

Message from Cllr Tristan Chatfield and Cllr Brigid Jones

This is the fourth time we've had to react to a terror attack in recent weeks. We've had attacks on people who engage in democracy, attacks on people out simply having a good time, and now attacks on people practicing their religion. Our thoughts are with those who have lost someone and those who are still fighting for their lives. We know that the police and other services are working hard to protect other mosques during what should be a holy and happy week and that they are doing all they can to keep us all safe.

Over the weekend we marked the anniversary of another attack; the murder of Jo Cox, an MP in the north by an extremist. But rather than let the attackers win by hiding scared, we celebrated her life, holding parties and picnics to commemorate everything she stood for. We need to mourn those taken away from us, but also to honour their memory by doing the very things the extremists don't want us to do. So if you're celebrating this week, we wish you Eid Mubarak when it comes; and for everyone, we hope you enjoy the sunshine and keep living your lives to the full.

Cllr Tristan Chatfield Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality

Cllr Brigid Jones Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools

Statement from the Muslim Council of Britain

Harun Khan, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain said: "During the night, ordinary British citizens were set upon while they were going about their lives, completing their night worship. My prayers are with the victims and their families. It appears from eye witness accounts that the perpetrator was motivated by Islamophobia.

Over the past weeks and months, Muslims have endured many incidents of Islamophobia, and this is the most violent manifestation to date.

Given we are approaching the end of the month of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid with many Muslims going to local mosques, we expect the authorities to increase security outside mosques as a matter of urgency.

Muslim communities have been calling for increased action to tackle the growth in hate crime for many years and transformative action must now be taken to tackle not only this incident but the hugely worrying growth in Islamophobia.

Many will feel terrorised, no doubt be angry and saddened by what has taken place tonight. We urge calm as the investigation establishes the full facts, and in these last days of Ramadan, pray for those affected and for justice."

Curriculum resource

Attached with this Red Noticeboard is a curriculum resource produced by Ayisha Ali from the Education Resilience team. This contains teaching resources and teacher guidance.

A range of PREVENT CPD sessions will be taking place over the next few weeks and places can be booked via Eventbrite using this link <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/d/uk--birmingham/birmingham-prevent-cpd/?crt=regular&sort=best</u>

CONTACT: Ayisha Ali / Razia Butt, Education Resilience team EMAIL: 0121 464 7739

Specialist CPD arranged by Education Resilience team

We are aware that Extreme Right Wing inspired hate crime and attacks are under reported so we have arranged four specialist CPD for our schools on 2nd and 9th October, 2017.

The sessions will focus on deconstructing the extreme right wing narrative, enhance understanding from a Prevent perspective and how to support children and young people affected.

Sessions will be led by specialists in the field; Dave Alport from Rewind UK and Nigel Bromage from Small Steps. The sessions will be advertised through School Noticeboard this week and can be booked through Eventbrite.

If schools need support with specific concerns please contact us in the normal way. If would like to arrange specialist in-house training, you may wish to consider one of the following providers:

Dave Alport, Rewind UK http://rewind.org.uk Tel: 07960136373

Connect Futures http://connectfutures.org/our-courses/ Tel: 0121 214 6208

Matt Sparling https://www.mjssafeguarding.com Tel: 07450533478

CONTACT: Razia Butt, Resilience Adviser EMAIL: Razia.butt@birmingham.gov.uk

Support from Educational Psychology

If schools would like advice on how to communicate messages in ways that can be understood by different age groups, please contact Educational Psychology.

Schools can contact Amanda Daniels, Principal Educational Psychologist, for further advice or support.

CONTACT:Amanda Daniels, Principal Educational PsychologistTEL:0121 303 0100EMAIL:amanda.daniels@birmingham.gov.uk