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Dear parents and carers,

We are just writing to give you an update on the tragic events in Nottingham yesterday.

As you will probably be aware three people sadly lost their lives during a city attack in the early hours of the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Currently Police are keeping an 'open mind' over the motive of a city attack which has left three people dead - but at this time believe there is no one else outstanding in connection with the incidents. Police were called to Ilkeston Road just after 4am (Tuesday 13 June) after two people had been killed.

Officers were then called to another incident in Milton Street where a van had attempted to run over three people. One man is in hospital in a critical condition while two others are believed to have suffered minor injuries. A man was also found dead in Magdala Road shortly afterwards.

## Police cordon at Magdala Road

Police have arrested a 31-year-old man on suspicion of murder and he remains in police custody. A number of major roads in the city centre will remain closed as a thorough police investigation is underway. Currently, police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the attacks. A team of dedicated detectives are investigating the circumstances surrounding the attacks.

Some major roads in the city centre will remain closed for the time being while the police conclude their investigations including Ilkeston Road, Magdala Street, Milton Street and Maple Street. However, the police have said it is safe to go into the city centre.

Obviously as a school our thoughts and sympathies are with all the families affected by this shocking incident.

Please rest assured that every measure is taken by school to ensure that the children remain safe when they are here. This includes fenced and gated premises, locked and secured access points with only supervised and electronic entry, and high staff supervision. I wanted to give you further reassurance that the staff team are prepared to talk to pupils in the coming days and weeks in an appropriate and sensitive way about the events that have unfolded. The key for us all will be to ensure we support all of our pupils and their families. We will also share via our school website further information and support for families.

We understand how incredibly upsetting this is for the whole community and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Natasha Kelly Headteacher





















## Dealing with tragic events

## Tips for Parents

It is not easy talking to children about tragic events. We offer the following suggestions to help you help your children cope with the trauma inflicted by the recent tragedy:

- Reassure children that they are safe. Explain to them that there are good, competent people in charge who are working to keep us all safe.
- Point out good deeds that have come out of this tragedy. Focus on stories of heroism and generosity to help children fortify their belief in humanity.
- **Explain that feeling upset is normal.** Communicate to your children that being sad or crying about these events is ok.
- Talk about the tragedy with children old enough to understand recent events. Tell your children the truth, but make sure that your explanations are age-appropriate. Younger children will need brief information (only if they are aware of the tragedy and are asking questions) combined with reassurances of safety and love. Older children will be able to ask more involved questions and may need more detailed reassurances about why they are safe. Give children the answers to their questions and try to avoid speculation. Be a good listener and ask your children why they are asking the questions they are asking, to get to the root of their anxiety.
- Try to keep your routine. This fosters feelings of safety and stability.
- Encourage young children to express their feelings through art. This may help them express thoughts they are unable to articulate.
- **Stay calm.** Children take cues from your behaviour. It is ok to show that you are upset, but avoid expressing strong feelings of anger, fear, or hopelessness.
- Try to spend more time with your children. Tell them that you love them and engage them with quiet, calming activities.
- Limit exposure to the media. Avoid "staying glued" to the television. Instead, watch for a brief time and then talk about what you are seeing.
- Don't punish children for reverting to behaviours from an earlier age, e.g., bedwetting. Instead, encourage them to verbalize the feelings behind their actions. These behaviours will subside over time.
- Be familiar with signs of trauma and monitor your child's behaviour in the upcoming weeks. Be in touch with teachers and caregivers to ask about your child's behaviour.
- Take care of yourself. Your children take cues from your words and actions, and you will need to take care of your own needs in order to stay calm and strong for your children. Seek out community resources to find the support you need.