

Briefing Note: Supporting School Communities in the Aftermath of the Liverpool FC Parade Incident (May 2025)

The tragic incident during the Liverpool FC parade in May 2025 has deeply affected the local community. Even for those not personally involved, such events can lead to heightened anxiety and emotional distress. This briefing note provides practical guidance for school leaders and staff to support pupils, parents/carers, and colleagues, as well as strategies for managing emotional responses across the wider school community.

Supporting Pupils Directly Impacted by the Incident

Identifying affected pupils and providing trauma-informed pastoral care: For most, this will be through trusted adults such as form tutors, class teachers, and other pastoral staff. Some may access school counsellors, educational psychologists, school health teams or mental health schools' teams - typically after a 4–6-week period to allow for normal emotional processing.

Monitoring attendance, engagement, and wellbeing: Regular check-ins and flexible academic expectations may be needed for some pupils.

Creating safe spaces: · Offer time and space for individuals to process their emotions.

Signposting to further support: This [page](#) provides helpful tips and a guide to professional services. YPAS Walk-In Support Hub (WISH), Crisis Support (call 111 and select the mental health option) and Kooth (online support) are available for pupils needing additional support.

Mental Health Support Team Consultations: Advice and guidance on supporting pupils can be accessed using the following forms. Consent (from pupils and their parents/carers) is required.

[Primary school consultation](#)

[Secondary & Special Link Worker consultation](#)



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Supporting Parents/Carers and Staff

Open lines of communication: Offer clear and compassionate updates, along with how to access support. Advice on how to have difficult conversations can be found on this [page](#). The RAISE Mental Health Promotion Team will be delivering their '[Worries of the World](#)' Bitesize over the coming weeks.



SCAN ME

Staff wellbeing strategies: Access supervision or reflective practice sessions, as well as peer support systems. Having a graduated approach to staff wellbeing.

Parent/carer engagement: Provide guidance on [how to discuss the event with children](#) about the event and [where to seek](#) support.

Signposting to external services:
A list of useful support can be found on this [page](#).



Liverpool City Council and NHS partners have put together this [toolkit giving guidance](#) around dealing with traumatic events.



Managing Community-Wide Emotional Impact

Classroom-based

discussions: Age-appropriate, factual, and reassuring conversations to address concerns. [Trauma Council UK have designed guidance and resources](#) to support educational communities following critical incidents.



Maintaining routine while allowing flexibility for those who need support. Remind pupils and staff to self-care by eating well, staying active and getting enough sleep. See [Liverpool City Council's toolkit](#) for further information.



Community solidarity and remembrance:

Respectful ways to acknowledge the incident (e.g., assemblies, minutes of silence).

Liverpool Schools' Critical Incident Aftercare

Schools play a key role in the aftercare of pupils, staff and parents/carers following Critical Incidents. A Critical Incident is any incident or sequence of events which overwhelms the normal coping mechanisms of the school (National Educational Psychological Service, 2016). If this applies to your school, you can use the School **Mental Health Support Critical Incident Aftercare Procedure**. Details of this, along with the access proforma can be found [here](#)*.



**If you need further guidance around this you can request a consultation from your MHST.*

