

9 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We are deeply saddened by the tragic events that occurred on Yom Kippur at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation synagogue in Manchester. As many of you will be aware, this was a violent and senseless attack that claimed the lives of two members of the Jewish community and injured several others. The incident has been declared a terrorist attack and has understandably caused shock and grief across our city and beyond. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and all those affected. We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community during this time of mourning and reflection.

We understand that children and young people may be feeling anxious, frightened or confused following this news. Child safety and wellbeing is our priority across Salford and Greater Manchester.

Misinformation on Social Media

We know that recently there has been a lots of misinformation shared on social media related to threats to schools locally and nationally. We understand this has caused much worry and concern. All concerns raised are investigated thoroughly, in partnership with our GMP colleagues. Currently we are aware of reports on social media regarding suspicious males near to a number of schools in the Swinton and Salford area. Please be assured that GMP take these reports seriously and have investigated each report, to ensure the safety of the schools and pupils. We can confirm that the males in question were contractors working nearby. Also our investigation has clarified that the 'Beat the Street' app, an initiative supported by the Local Authority and many schools, has also created an increase of activity outside of the schools.

To be clear, our Community Safety Lead and GMP have confirmed there is no current information or intelligence to suggest any school in the locality is at risk of any criminal behaviour. I can reassure you that the safety of children in Salford schools across our city remains our highest priority.

School Procedures

All schools have strong security measures in place and follow national guidance to respond to emergencies, including terrorism and other major incidents. They work closely with the Local Authority and Greater Manchester Police to maintain a safe and secure environment. Sometimes, schools may carry out an **invacuation**, which means keeping everyone safely inside the building. This is usually a precaution and allows the school day to continue indoors. It may be used in situations like:

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- Nearby fire or chemical release causing air pollution
- A disturbance on school grounds (e.g. a dog or angry visitor)
- Local incidents or unrest that could affect the school

In more serious cases, a **lockdown** may be used. This involves moving everyone to a secure area out of sight from outside. Lockdowns are rare and only happen when there's a serious and immediate threat, such as:

- An aggressive or intoxicated person trying to enter the school
- An intruder on site
- A threat from within the school

Both evacuation and lockdown are precautionary measures to keep everyone safe.

Schools across Salford are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where pupils can express their feelings and ask questions. Our staff are prepared to offer reassurance and guidance, and we encourage you to speak with your child at home in a way that is age-appropriate and comforting.

How you can help?

To report suspicious activity, please contact GMP via 101 or online. In an emergency, always call **999**. Please avoid sharing concerns on social media— please report directly to the proper authorities.

You can support your child by answering their questions openly and honestly, listening to their thoughts and feelings, keeping their routines consistent, monitoring what they see in the media and making time for nurture and fun.

If your child is particularly affected emotionally or if you would like support in talking with them about this event, please do not hesitate to discuss this with your school. Salford Schools have good access to the Educational Psychology Services who can support them to respond to children's feelings.

This tragedy reminds us of the importance of compassion, unity, and respect for one another. As a community, we must continue to promote understanding and stand against all forms of hate and violence.

Yours sincerely



Cathy Starbuck
Director, Education and Inclusion