



Date 26 February 2026

Dear all,

We recognise that many of our schools are currently receiving reports about a national social media trend that appears to encourage violence between pupils. Most of the posts circulating locally reference secondary schools in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

We understand that these posts are causing concern among some parents and carers, and that they may be creating anxiety for children and young people. We also know that your settings are doing everything you can to support your school community and respond to any concerns being raised. The purpose of this letter is to give you a clear update on the situation and provide some suggested messaging to share with your school community if you feel it is needed.

Since becoming aware that this national trend is being circulated within our area, officers from Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council have been meeting to assess any risk posed by the posts and to understand their impact on families, children and young people.

At this time, this trend is **not linked to any ongoing investigations**, and we have **no intelligence** to suggest that the calls for violence between schools are being acted upon. We understand that many of the posts are being shared by well intentioned individuals seeking to warn others, and we recognise that this is a natural reaction when faced with alarming online trends but we would ask you to urge your school community not to share the posts or speculate on this issue.

We continue to monitor the situation closely across all three organisations and will continue working with partners, including youth and community groups, to assess any emerging risks. Please reassure parents and carers that the situation is being actively monitored, and that any identified risks to a child or young person's safety or wellbeing will be responded to.

You may notice an increased police presence in several areas over the coming days. This is to provide additional reassurance within communities and will include extra

patrols outside a number of schools.

We recognise the vital role we all play in keeping children and young people safe, and we know that school remains the safest place for them. If you receive any information or intelligence related to this particular concern, please report it to the police quoting management occurrence number 5226052962 **and** please continue to follow your safeguarding procedures and report any concerns you have about children and young people in your care in the normal way i.e.

Bristol schools: *Bristol City Council Social Care: 0117 903 6444*

South Glos schools: *South Gloucestershire Council Social Care: 01454 866000*

vrp@southglos.gov.uk

You may wish to use the following in any communication with parents.

We are aware of posts circulating on social media relating to a national online trend that appears to encourage violence between pupils. Some of these posts refer to schools in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire area. We recognise that this will be worrying for some families, so we want to reassure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and working with our local partners.

Avon and Somerset Police have confirmed that, at this time, there is no intelligence to suggest that these posts relate to any real or planned incidents.

To help keep your child safe, parents and carers may wish to:

- *Have open, non-judgemental conversations with your child about their online activity and what they may be seeing or hearing*
- *Make it clear that any trend promoting division, confrontation, or violence is unsafe and unacceptable*
- *Explain that simply attending or observing organised gatherings can still put them in danger*
- *Encourage them to speak to you, a teacher, or another trusted adult if they feel pressured to take part.*

Families are urged not to repost or circulate related content, as this can unintentionally amplify the situation.

Further advice and information on anonymously reporting concerns is available at [Fearless.org](https://www.fearless.org)

You may see an increased police presence in some areas over the coming days. This is being arranged to provide visible reassurance within the community and includes additional patrols outside several schools.

School remains the safest place for children and young people, and we continue to follow our usual safeguarding procedures. If you or your child have any concerns, please contact us directly so that we can provide support.

- **Call 999** in an emergency or if anyone is at immediate risk of harm.
- **Avon and Somerset Police non-emergency number: 101**
- **To raise concerns about a child or young person:**
 - Bristol City Council Social Care: **0117 903 6444**
 - South Gloucestershire Council Social Care: **01454 866000**
- **Mental health support (Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership):**
 - Adults: **0800 953 1919**
 - Children and young people: **0800 953 9599**
- **Online emotional wellbeing support for young people aged 11–18:** [Kooth](#)

If you have any questions or would like further reassurance, please get in touch with the school.

