



Thursday 1st February 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I'm writing to you in relation to the tragic events which took place on Saturday night on Ilminster Avenue, Bristol.

Any death is awful, but the death of a child is something no parent or family member should have to endure. I know you'll be equally as horrified by what took place and join me in keeping the families of Mason Rist, 15, and Max Dixon, 16, in your thoughts as they come to terms with their loss.

I don't underestimate the concern you may be feeling following the incident and I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that detectives are doing everything they can to establish what happened.

The investigation is being led by the Major Crime Investigation Team and is well underway, with multiple arrests made and one man already charged.

No stone will be left unturned in the quest to bring all those responsible to justice and there are more than 100 police officers and staff supporting the investigation, with assistance coming from two other forces.

Avon and Somerset Police is working closely with Bristol City Council and together we are supporting schools across the city manage the aftermath of this horrific incident.

Something we are all concerned about is the amount of unhelpful speculation and rumours that are circulating both in the community and online.

I'd encourage you to speak to you children and advise them not to share, like or comment on posts or images relating to this incident. I'd also recommend you encourage your children to remove themselves from any groups where these are being shared.

The sharing of images, footage or even discussing the incident online could have a devastating impact on the families of the two boys while it could also hinder the investigation and potentially prejudice future court proceedings.

We, Avon and Somerset Police, are committed to keeping you and the wider community informed of the progress of the inquiry and I encourage you to visit our website and social media channels for all the latest updates as they become available.

Lots of people have come forward with information and the investigation team are extremely grateful for the assistance they've been given so far. We're also grateful to the wider community for the patience and understanding shown these past few days.

Help and support

Help is available for those, both adults and children, who feel they have been impacted by these events and are experiencing a reaction associated with trauma.



Common signs of the impacts of trauma include:

- Feeling unable or not having anyone to talk to about what happened.
- Poor sleep due to intrusive thoughts or disturbing dreams impacting rest.
- Experiencing overwhelming emotions or feeling emotionally numb.
- Feeling as if your relationships are suffering since the incident.

In the first instance it's important that if someone's wellbeing or mental health is suffering, they call 111 or contact their GP.

Mental health support in Bristol can be accessed by contacting Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership:

- Adults can call the AWP 24/7 response line: 0800 953 1919
- Children under 18 can call the AWP CAMHS response line: 0800 953 9599

Information and advice related to mental health and the support available can also be found online:

- Off the Record (CAMHS) <https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/>
- Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org/branches/bristol/>
- Bristol MIND <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Reporting information

If you did witness anything, have CCTV or doorbell footage covering the area, or have any further information which could help the investigation but have yet contacted the police, please do so at the earliest opportunity.

You can submit information and footage via the Major Incident Public Portal using this website link: <https://mipp.police.uk/operations/5223B44-PO1>

If you prefer to contact the police by phone, call 101 and provide the call handler with the reference **5224023382**.

Alternatively contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100 per cent anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via its dedicated youth service Fearless.

No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will not go to court or have to speak to police when contacting Crimestoppers.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Runacres', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Superintendent Mark Runacres, Bristol Commander