



9 April 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Leicestershire Police and Leicester City Council are committed to working together to address the root causes of crime and antisocial behaviour in our city. As part of this commitment, we collaborate closely with schools, community partners, and families to develop effective strategies to respond to incidents and prevent harm before it occurs.

We are reaching out to you today to seek your support in safeguarding our young people, particularly at the end of each school term, when we have observed an increase in risky behaviours among children and young people.

On 20 December 2024, the final day of the autumn term for most Leicester schools, approximately 500 children and young people gathered in the city centre during the afternoon. This appears to have been a coordinated activity arranged via social media. Many of the young people involved were identifiable by their school uniforms, with the majority believed to be from local secondary schools.

While similar gatherings have occurred in the past, the scale of this event was unprecedented. The levels of antisocial behaviour were deeply concerning, including significant disruption to businesses and people visiting the city centre, damage to police vehicles, and multiple incidents occurred requiring police intervention.

These incidents included two assaults on police officers, a sexual assault on a child, a breach of the peace, and several other assaults involving young people. At one point, the situation escalated to such an extent that a police dispersal order was necessary, and over 40 officers were deployed to restore order.

We are sure you will agree that this kind of behaviour is unacceptable. Not only does it risk drawing young people into criminal activity, but it also significantly increases the likelihood of them becoming victims of crime themselves.

To prevent a recurrence of such incidents, Leicestershire Police, Leicester City Council, and school leaders across the city and county are asking for your support. Together, we can help ensure the safety and wellbeing of our young people by:

- 1. Having open conversations** with your children about the risks associated with antisocial behaviour and the potential consequences of being involved in such activities.

2. **Noting school finishing times** on the last day of term and ensuring you know where your children are during this period.
3. **Encouraging participation in alternative activities** – Whether organised, informal or by accessing the range of facilities across the city, please highlight the opportunities to undertake positive activities outside of school.

Our children and young people are a vital part of our community, and we want to support their freedom to enjoy the city in a safe and appropriate manner. By working together, we can ensure that the events of last December are not repeated and that our young people continue to thrive in a positive and secure environment.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping our city a safe place to live, work and visit.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Nicola Odom
Leicester City Council



Superintendent Paul Allen
Leicestershire Police