# Elm Park Primary School headteacher shocked by violent birthday party chaos



Victoria Morris, headteacher of Elm Park Primary School in Havering, east London, has expressed her 'shock' following a violent incident at a private 16th birthday party hosted at the school. The event was gatecrashed by a group of over 50 youths armed with knives and machetes, resulting in chaos and injuries on Saturday night, March 22.

The disturbance unfolded shortly after 8.30pm, escalating as gatecrashers, reportedly from outside the local area, clashed with attendees of the ticketed event. As the situation deteriorated, police were called to the scene at approximately 9pm. Officers employed pepper spray to combat the aggressive behaviour of some attendees, ultimately leading to two hours of disorder outside the venue. Video footage depicts the alarming scene, with individuals brandishing weapons and others fleeing for safety as police attempted to establish control.

In total, two victims—aged 16 and 19—were transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Three teenagers were arrested at the scene on suspicion of assault against emergency workers, as they resisted police attempts to restore order. Officers involved in the altercations received treatment at the scene from London Ambulance Service medics.

Breaking her silence about the incident, Ms Morris commented, "We were shocked to hear of a disturbance at a private birthday party in our hall over the weekend. This was a private hire and the people involved were not known to us." She assured that strict protocols had been in place for venue hire, stating, "We have successfully let our premises to the local community for years and have stringent protocols in place." Following the egregious incident, Ms Morris announced that the school would not permit evening events to be held at the hall in the future.

Witnesses described the scene as mayhem, with one local resident noting, “The road was like a war zone—this is normally a quiet and respectable area. We’ve certainly seen nothing like this before.” Many locals have voiced concerns about the influx of disruptive youths from surrounding areas such as Stratford and Plaistow, who reportedly arrived via the London Underground's District Line.

The event venue's original capacity was set for 80 attendees, but the situation reached a boiling point when ones without tickets forced their way in. The calm that followed the initial ejection soon morphed into disturbance as those outside attempted to regain access, resulting in heightened tensions and the eventual arrival of a large crowd near the venue's gates. As the police intervened, the chaos only amplified, attracting more youths, many of whom continued to message friends through social media platforms about the ongoing disturbances.

Concerns regarding security were prevalent, with residents highlighting inadequate measures for crowd control. One parent referenced the DJ's microphone appeal for attendees to conceal nitrous oxide canisters, which contributed to the mayhem. Eyewitness accounts recount police struggling to manage the crowd, with reports of individuals taunting officers, and even engaging in provocative behaviour such as dancing on police vehicles.

The police maintained a presence throughout the night, with additional reinforcements deployed to regain control of the situation. Local residents described a significant response from authorities, including canine units, which eventually led to a dispersal of the large group. Reports indicate that the following morning, police recovered multiple weapons, including machetes and flick knives, hidden nearby in residential gardens.

An alarming aftermath unfolded as individuals sought to reclaim weapons they had stashed during the chaos. As investigations continue into the incident, with police appealing for information from the public, community members voiced their distress at what transpired within their normally peaceful neighbourhood.

The Metropolitan Police confirmed that an investigation is underway, with officers appealing for anyone with further information to step forward. The incident has raised concerns around security measures at local events and sparked discussions regarding youth safety and community relations in Havering.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/crime/terrifying-moment-gang-knife-thugs-primary-school-party-stabbing/> - This article corroborates the violent incident at Elm Park Primary School where a group of youths armed with knives and machetes gatecrashed a birthday party, resulting in multiple injuries and arrests. The account highlights the chaos and aggression displayed by the youths towards police and other attendees.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/crime/neighbours-recall-two-hours-mayhem-thugs-gatecrash-party-primary-school/> - This report supports the claims of severe disorder and the involvement of at least 50 youths in the incident. Neighbours described the scene as 'two hours of utter mayhem,' with police deploying significant resources, including dogs, to manage the situation.
* <https://www.tiktok.com/@dailymailuk/video/7485326033512647958> - This TikTok video shows footage of panicked schoolchildren fleeing the scene after the gang crashed the party, corroborating the chaotic nature of the event and the fear experienced by attendees.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not directly accessible from the provided information, this source is mentioned as the basis for the initial report about the incident at Elm Park Primary School, including details of the gatecrashing and subsequent violence.
* <https://www.haveringdaily.co.uk/> - This local news site would likely cover community reactions and eyewitness accounts of the event, providing more detailed insights into the local response to the disturbance and its impact on residents.