# Student attack at Whitburn Academy sparks calls for tougher anti-bullying measures and social media regulation



A significant incident occurred at Whitburn Academy in West Lothian, where a 12-year-old girl, Skye, was subjected to a violent attack during lunchtime. The incident reportedly involved around 40 fellow pupils who gathered to watch and film the assault, which has since circulated on social media platforms such as Snapchat.

The girl's mother, Jennifer Storrar, has publicly expressed her outrage and concern, stating that this is not the first instance of bullying experienced by Skye at the school. In an interview with Edinburgh Live, Storrar mentioned that Skye had faced similar challenges earlier in the academic year, indicating a pattern of bullying that has been brought to the school's attention multiple times. "I think it’s actually disgusting," she remarked, highlighting her frustration with the school’s responses to previous incidents. Following an earlier attack, Storrar noted that the school had made adjustments by changing the timetables of the aggressor but claimed these measures have not addressed the ongoing problem effectively.

The attack took place on East Main Street, where the group allegedly pulled Skye to the ground and struck her repeatedly in the head. Following the incident, the emotional toll on Skye has been significant, leading her to feel too frightened to return to school for the rest of the week. Jennifer described the environment outside the school during break times as a "warzone for fighting and anti-social behaviour," suggesting that the current measures allowing students to leave school grounds at lunchtime may need reevaluation.

Local authorities, including West Lothian Council, are aware of the situation and have stated that inquiries are ongoing. A spokesperson for the council remarked that while they cannot control events outside school premises, they would be engaging with those involved and their parents to determine necessary actions. The spokesperson affirmed the academy's commitment to tackling bullying seriously and promoting a safe environment for all students.

Jennifer Storrar has called for enhanced educational initiatives concerning bullying prevention, asserting that the issue extends beyond school premises, exacerbated by the prevalence of social media. "Bullying doesn’t stop at the school gates — it follows children everywhere through smartphones and apps like Snapchat," she stated. The distressing nature of the incident was amplified by the fact that a video of the assault was viewed over 40,000 times on social media, raising concerns about the role of digital platforms in the dissemination of violent content.

In response to the growing concerns surrounding youth violence, the Daily Record initiated the Our Kids ... Our Future campaign, which advocates for safer spaces for children in communities and urges social media companies to implement stricter controls to prevent the sharing of such violent content.

Police Scotland has confirmed that they received a report about the incident on Tuesday, 29 April 2025. They indicated that their investigation is currently in its early stages.

As discussions unfold regarding school safety and bullying management, the complexities of physical and online harassment continue to raise pressing questions about the safeguarding of students in contemporary educational settings.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/armed-intruder-14-arrested-after-29098346> - This article reports on a 14-year-old armed intruder arrested at a Scottish school, highlighting concerns about school safety and the presence of weapons on school premises.
2. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/895674/moray-pupils-question-gun-bomb-threats/> - This piece discusses threats of bombing and shooting attacks at a north-east school, underscoring the challenges schools face in ensuring student safety amid external threats.
3. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/pupils-made-hide-under-desks-28900109> - The article details how pupils were instructed to hide under desks during terror attack drills, reflecting the heightened security measures in schools due to safety concerns.
4. <https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/knives-north-east-schools-children-27683929> - This report reveals multiple incidents of children as young as seven being found with knives in North East schools, highlighting the prevalence of weapon-related issues in educational settings.
5. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/1260044/north-east-councils-stand-defiant-school-trips-london-wake-terror-attack/> - The article discusses how north-east councils are maintaining school trips to London despite recent terror attacks, illustrating the balance between ensuring safety and continuing educational activities.
6. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/armed-intruder-14-arrested-after-29098346> - This article reports on a 14-year-old armed intruder arrested at a Scottish school, highlighting concerns about school safety and the presence of weapons on school premises.
7. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-mum-calls-action-school-35154328> - Please view link - unable to able to access data