# Disturbing video of schoolboy attack in Newport sparks police arrests and safeguarding review



A distressing incident in Lliswerry, Newport, has raised serious concerns about youth violence and school safety after a video surfaced showing a group of youths attacking a schoolboy while an adult appeared to restrain him. The footage, which quickly gained traction on social media, prompted Gwent Police to intervene, leading to the arrests of three individuals involved in the assault. Among those apprehended was a 30-year-old man from Cwmbran, who faces charges of affray and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Two minors were also arrested: a 13-year-old boy from Cwmbran and an 11-year-old boy from Newport, both facing charges related to the attack.

Within the context of Lliswerry High School, the headteacher, Julia Fitzgerald, along with Mark Howells, the chairman of governors, acknowledged the gravity of the situation. In a joint statement, they expressed their awareness of the incident involving students and assured the public that a thorough investigation would be conducted in collaboration with the police and local authorities. The school has faced challenges in recent years, with previous incidents casting a shadow over its reputation. For instance, in 2015, a teacher was banned from teaching for sending inappropriate texts to a 17-year-old pupil, highlighting troubling issues related to safeguarding within the institution.

This latest incident is part of a worrying pattern of youth-related violence in the Newport area. In a separate but similarly alarming situation, two teenagers were charged with attempted murder following a knife attack near Coleg Gwent Campus in Lliswerry, indicating a potential escalation in violent behaviour among young individuals. Furthermore, Gwent Police have responded to various other reports, including incidents involving inappropriate behaviour near local schools. Recently, investigations were launched after a man exposed himself near Lliswerry Primary School, leading to heightened security measures and parental advisories.

The implications of such incidents extend beyond immediate safety concerns. They reflect broader societal issues relating to youth behaviour, mental health, and the influence of social media. The rapid spread of violent content online not only aggravates the problem but also distorts public perception, often exposing children to alarming scenarios. Experts argue that addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing community engagement, educational interventions, and closer collaboration with families to foster safer environments for young people.

As the investigation into the Lliswerry attack unfolds, the local community is left grappling with the need for enhanced safeguarding measures. Schools, in particular, must take proactive steps to ensure student safety, while parents are encouraged to engage in open dialogues with their children about the consequences of violence and the importance of seeking help in conflict situations.

The unsettling events in Lliswerry are a clarion call for communities and educational institutions to come together to foster resilience in young people and discourage any form of violence, ensuring that schools remain safe havens for learning and growth.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-2
2. Paragraph 3
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 6

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056166/three-arrested-video-man-holding> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/15067469.teacher-is-banned-for-sexual-texts-to-pupil/> - A teacher at Lliswerry High School in Newport, Gareth James, was struck off for sending illicit images to a 17-year-old pupil. The student reported receiving numerous text messages over the summer holiday in 2015, leading to an investigation. James admitted to buying alcohol for students and communicating via social media but denied the sexual misconduct charges. The Education Workforce Council found the charges to be sexually motivated, resulting in a 12-month suspension from the teaching register and mandatory completion of a Child Sexual Exploitation course for potential reinstatement.
3. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/24716910.boys-accused-attempted-murder-near-newport-college/> - Two boys, aged 16 and 17, were charged with attempted murder after an alleged stabbing near Coleg Gwent Campus in Lliswerry, Newport. The incident occurred on November 7, 2024, around 3 pm, involving an 18-year-old man. The teenagers were also charged with possession of offensive weapons in a public place. Both were remanded into youth detention accommodation and appeared before Newport Magistrates' Court.
4. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/young-men-flashed-schoolchildren-after-27708374> - Gwent Police investigated a report of a man exposing himself near Lliswerry Primary School in Newport on September 13, 2024. A group of young men approached the school, and at least one exposed himself in front of pupils. The individual fled when approached by staff. The school increased patrols and advised parents to collect children from classrooms instead of the school gates. The incident caused anxiety among some students, and the police investigation is ongoing.
5. <https://www.abc6.com/newport-police-arrest-suspect-with-machete-gun-drugs-after-call-reporting-video-voyeurism/> - Newport Police arrested a man on November 23, 2023, after a report of video voyeurism and possession of child pornography. The suspect, whose name was not released, was found with a large quantity of controlled substances, a machete, a 9mm semi-automatic pistol, and large-capacity magazines. He faces several felony charges, including drug and illegal gun possession.
6. <https://www.abc6.com/newport-man-arrested-for-alleged-possession-of-child-sexual-abuse-material/> - On December 5, 2024, Newport Police arrested 23-year-old Ryan McElwee for alleged possession of child sexual abuse material. The arrest was part of an investigation with the Department of Homeland Security into individuals obtaining such material online. McElwee was charged with one count of possession of child pornography and was released on $5,000 personal recognizance after arraignment.
7. <https://www.kptv.com/2024/09/25/14-year-old-arrested-making-social-media-threat-newport-high-school/> - A 14-year-old student was arrested on September 25, 2024, for making a social media threat implying a school shooting at Newport High School in Oregon. The Snapchat post caused alarm, but police determined it was made in poor taste without an active threat. The student was arrested for disorderly conduct and taken to a juvenile detention facility. The Newport Police Department and Lincoln County School District have zero tolerance for threats against schools.