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East Dunbartonshire Council

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**GORDON CURRIE
HEAD OF EDUCATION**

Your Ref:
Our Ref: JM/MRL/14
Date: 22 March 2013

Education Quality and Development Service
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Dear Parents,

Following the incident at Gartconner Primary School on Monday, we would like to assure all parents that the safety of your children is our first priority.

The Head Teacher, Mrs Findlay and all the staff acted promptly to ensure the children's safety. They were kept in the hall for a short time until the police arrived at the school. They then went to their classes as normal.

We would like to thank the Head Teacher and the staff for the professional way in which they handled the situation.

We acted on police advice to allow the school to remain open and for the children to be allowed to leave school as normal at the end of the school day. The police were obviously assessing the situation and giving their advice to the education authority and the Head Teacher.

We did not want to cause undue panic and alarm to the children. Police patrols were increased to provide reassurance.

A letter was issued to parents giving all the information we were able to provide, without prejudicing or hindering the police inquiry. However we are sorry that some parents did not receive this letter. In the future we will try to ensure better communication using text messaging and e-mail.

We recognise that this has been a difficult and anxious time for parents and this has been heightened by the coverage in the media.

We have given an assurance to parents that if there are any further threats made in relation to Gartconner, they will be informed immediately.

We will also review our emergency procedures following this incident including our response to the situation.

We would assure parents that the school is operating as usual. The campus police officers are present and this will be reviewed by Strathclyde Police in consultation with the education authority.

We will keep parents informed if we have any further information in relation to the police investigation.

Yours sincerely

JACQUI MACDONALD
EDUCATION OFFICER