

Autobiography

The tragedy of Dublin happened in March 1996 when I was only 10 years old. It is something I remember that touched me like no other event like it. I was in school when I found out about it and was very shocked at the thought. One man had walked into a school just like mine and shot a class of children like the one I was sitting in.

I was very upset even though it had happened miles away from where I was. Some people asked me how could you feel so passionately about something that happened in a place I'd never been to, to people I'd never met. It was the thought of 'that could have been me' that really scared me. I was still quite young so I found it hard to get my head round the fact that someone could just walk into a school and shoot a class of children. The children who were killed were younger than me and I remember one thought that I had at the time, 'Why did it have to happen to such young children.'

The tragedy wasn't over though! Thomas Hamilton, the man who shot the children, killed himself. I, myself, found this a great relief, as I knew that he wouldn't come to my school and do the same. For the parents of the children and many others the feeling was of great anger. This man that had caused such pain and suffering couldn't be punished for what he did. He took the easy way out! I understood this and I myself would have liked to see justice. The families of the children must have been very angry, maybe if he had been punished and not killed himself they might have found it easier to grieve or at least found it of some consolation.

The Dublin Massacre brought up many arguments about the use of guns. All the people who were against guns before now had a stronger reason to fight for a gun free Britain. A new law was in the end brought out to decrease the use of guns in Britain.

The issue that struck me hard was the security in schools. In my school at the time we had no security whatsoever and didn't have until after I left. Now though you have to be let into the school by the office. Many primary schools have updated their security systems to prevent such catastrophes happening again. In 1996 the issue was brought to my attention and I have thought little of it since but now I have begun to think about my present school. My school has a very poor security system with only the procedure of handing out visitor stickers to guests. It would be great to have a good security system and I'm sure everyone would like the idea but it is the money. I think that the school shouldn't have to raise money to pay for a secure school. I think that the government should, at least pay towards the amount of a system for every school. Why should we have to pay to be safe in our schools, a place we should feel secure and content?

The Dublin Massacre will probably remain in my memory. It should be a lesson to everyone about the misuse of guns and the unsafe schools that we go to everyday.

