

Schoolboy, 13, collapses from heart attack and dies in front of friends at youth club

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A 13-year-old schoolboy collapsed and died in front of his friends at a church-run youth club, it emerged today.

Alex Osborn died just three days before his 14th birthday when he suffered a massive heart attack at 7.20pm on Friday.

The popular teenager had been playing with his friends at the youth club in the Biddulph Pentecostal Church, Knypersley, Staffordshire when he had trouble breathing.



Tragic: The teenager had been playing with friends at the youth club in Biddulph Pentecostal Church, Knypersley, Staffordshire when he had trouble breathing

Youth workers and paramedics desperately tried to resuscitate him and he was rushed to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire but died a short time later.

Today neighbours of Alex, who lived in Biddulph with his father, David and older brother Connor, paid tribute to him.

Neighbour Marina Yoxall said: 'It really upset me when I heard what had happened.

'I would see the boys walking up from school every day. It's such a shock and very sad.'

A Facebook page set up in Alex's memory has also been deluged with tributes.



Loss: Paramedics desperately tried to resuscitate Alex and he was rushed to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire but died a short time later

Friend Ellie Brown Phillips wrote: 'Happy birthday Alex, you may not be here with us now but you're always in everyone's hearts. RIP.'

Louise Jennings posted: 'Happy birthday Alex, it's not right that you are not here to celebrate your 14th birthday, you'll be missed by many, thinking of you on your special day.'

Staff and pupils at Biddulph High School, where Connor is also a pupil, have been left in shock.

A school spokesman said: 'We are all shocked and saddened by Alex's sudden death.'

'Our thoughts are with his family and friends, including his brother Connor. Alex was a happy, lovely boy and he will be greatly missed by our community.'

West Midlands Ambulance Service confirmed Alex suffered a heart attack.

A post-mortem examination was expected to be carried out today.

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