



# SCHOOL'S OFFICER NEWSLETTER



## SAFER SCHOOLS OFFICERS:

Are you aware that two police officers work within 23 secondary schools throughout Aylesbury LPA? No... Well let me write a few lines about us.

I am PC 1978 Sharon Cann with 18 years' experience, since March 2018 I have been a safer school's officer. My colleague PC 5342 Jo Smith has 15 years' experience she has been a Safer Schools officer since June 2017. Our role within schools is to enforce the law in a positive way. We act with professional discretion to avoid young people being brought into the criminal justice system unnecessarily. It's all about finding a balance, keeping a "police head" on but at the same time being aware of the needs of the school and where possible avoiding criminalising pupils. However if someone needs arresting they should be arrested, if someone needs a restorative approach within the ethos and disciplinary procedures of the school, then that is what should be done. As part of the educational approach we engage with the students through assemblies where we deliver specific programmes (e.g. knife awareness, or something similar)

Going forward we hope to produce a quarterly newsletter providing parents and careers with information on the law and other subjects that are relevant. We hope you find this useful.

Police working with schools undertake a diverse range of roles and activities along a wide spectrum of work. Activities can be broadly grouped into three areas:

- Enforcement and safety of young people (e.g. tackling crime, discipline and behaviour in school)
- Supporting improvements in young people's knowledge and quality of life e.g. curriculum activities, extra-curricular activities , pastoral support)
- Strategic and multi-agency preventative working (eg. Sharing intelligence, police presence and profile)

## UNDERSTANDING THE LAW:

Stop and Search: If your child has been stopped and searched. **It does NOT mean your child is GUILTY of anything!**

It may be that they were in the wrong place at the wrong time or just fitted the description of someone who had committed an offence which made officers suspicious. **Your child's details will NOT be kept on any criminal database. No further action will be taken.**

The 2011 Education Act gives members of staff at schools the power to search and seize prohibited items from pupils, i.e. items on the schools banned list and articles used in commission of an offence or to cause personal injury or damage to property. This includes drugs, knives, cigarettes and more.

## WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING AND ONLINE HARASSMENT?

**CYBERBULLYING** is any form of bullying which takes place online. This can be done over smartphones, tablets, online gaming, chat forums, social and other media. Cyberbullying itself is not against the law but if the content is threatening then it could be illegal.

**Online Harassment** is the act of sending offensive, rude and insulting messages and being abusive. If someone purposefully keeps sending you offensive messages that make you feel scared, it could be illegal.

### BE SMART ABOUT IT!

- S** – Screenshot any offensive or harassing messages
- M** – Make sure your privacy settings are set so only people you know and trust can see what they post.
- A** – Avoid further communication with or retaliation to those sending the messages.
- R** – Report the incident(s) to internet service provider's websites and/or social media sites
- T** – Talk to a parent, carer, teacher or friend.

## **ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

The internet can be a valuable resource for children, allowing them to connect with friends and learn new things. But there are also risks when going online, and children can be particularly vulnerable. Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe online.

By understanding the risks and keeping yourself up-to-date on the latest technology, websites and social networks you can help your child enjoy the internet safely and securely.

For additional help and support please visit the below websites.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

<https://wwwmumsnet.com>

<https://internetmatters.org>

## **HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN ONLINE**



- **Keep computers & games consoles in family rooms where you can monitor activity.**
- **Make sure the games your child plays online are age appropriate.**
- **Install parental control software or activate parental controls through the internet to prevent access to inappropriate content.**
- **'Friend' or 'follow' your child on social networking sites, so you can see how they are using them.**
- **Check they are old enough to join any websites or social networks with age restrictions.**
- **Advise your child not to post personal information or any images they wouldn't want everyone to see.**
- **Avoid using webcams unless talking to close friends or family. Consider covering your webcam when not in use.**
- **Monitor your children's internet usage, and be watchful for any secretive behaviour.**

**If you have any ideas for future topics, would like information or have any questions please contact [aylesburysaferschools@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:aylesburysaferschools@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)**