



School Crime Beat Protocol



A parent's guide to:

The Police Supporting Schools with Incidents of Crime on School Grounds

Working in Partnership with Schools

For further information please visit the website: SchoolBeat.org

Learning to behave well is an important part of every child's education. Children with poor behaviour don't usually learn well. Children need to understand what is right or wrong in school and society. Poor behaviour during the school day can affect a child's learning and sometimes it can put other children and staff at risk.

The purpose of this leaflet is to:

- Help you, as a parent, understand how the Police and your school encourage and support good behaviour at school
- To explain that the School Crime Beat Protocol is the agreement between the school and police which helps stop children from entering the Criminal Justice System and having a criminal record
- Tell you what to expect if the School Community Police Officer (SCPO) is involved
- To explain that the SCPO will only become involved with incidents in the school **when there is suspicion that a serious crime has occurred**

Your SCPO will not generally deal with bullying and low level incidents. This behaviour should be dealt with in line with school policy and procedures.

The Police should be involved only when the school process has been completed.

"My child is in trouble at school.

He / she is a victim or I think he / she has committed an offence.

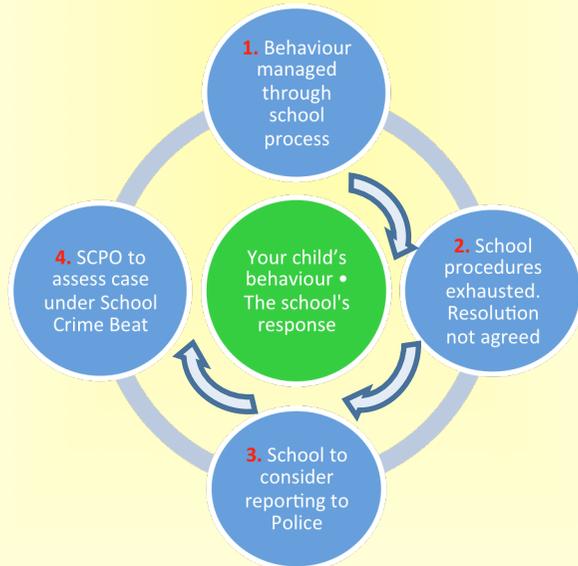
What should I expect?"

Your school will conduct an investigation of the incident, speaking to all witnesses and your child will usually be dealt with through the school's behaviour, rewards and sanctions policy.

If you are unhappy with what the school has done, you have a right to appeal to:

- The Head Teacher
- The Board of Governors
- The Local Authority (for your school area)

All schools have a legal responsibility for school discipline. After their investigations your school may refer the matter to your SCPO, if they think it is appropriate.



**If you are concerned about your child's behaviour,
always contact your school first.**

"What if the incident has to be dealt with by the SCPO?"

When the SCPO is involved, they will decide if the incident your child is involved in can be dealt with by the School Crime Beat Protocol. If so, they will deal with the matter outside of the Criminal Justice System as often as possible. To do so, SCPOs can use a restorative solution which gets the wrongdoer to consider the consequences of their actions on others and make amends. Schools have found this can help them solve behavioural problems as it supports both the victim and the wrongdoer.



If the incident cannot be dealt with by the SCPO, the wrongdoer is likely to enter the criminal justice process. This will mean that they will be dealt with the Youth Offending Team.

Before phoning 101, please consider:

1. speaking to school about the incident, and
2. allowing them to conduct their investigation first.

You may appeal to the Local Authority if you are unhappy with the outcome of the school's investigation.