



Merseyside Police Safer Schools Officers

Merseyside Police have been able to reintroduce Safer Schools Officers (SSO's) to secondary schools across the county as part of the national uplift in policing. Whilst we retained a small number of SSO's in some schools in Merseyside, we haven't had any in Sefton for a number of years so this is a welcome addition to our local team.

The purpose of a police officer in a school is very much around engagement with young people and supporting everyone who works in or attends our local schools in creating a safe environment.

Some of the key functions they undertake are;

- To promote positive relations between Merseyside Police, schools and local communities
- To support young people to develop resilience and feel safe with their communities.
- To ensure that when risks are identified, a partnership approach is taken to securing the appropriate safeguarding response, working alongside safeguarding leads and other professionals.
- To identify underlying causes when students begin to engage in crime or anti-social behaviour and provide suitable and timely interventions to support and avoid unnecessary criminalisation.
- To support school staff in ensuring the optimum attendance of children at school.
- To deliver, or facilitate the delivery of, tailored information and education sessions to raise awareness of issues that may put students and / or staff at risk
- To be a visible presence in and around the school
- To develop diversionary activities for young people to take part in alongside the school and other local community providers

Each secondary school in Sefton should have a named Safer Schools Officer who will support them in a 'cluster' of local schools. We currently have 3 officers working at Marsh Lane in Bootle who work with schools in the South of the borough and 2 officers at Southport working with schools from Formby northwards up to Southport.

If you have any queries around our Safer Schools Officers, you can contact the relevant Community Policing Team at;

Marsh Lane: B.Community.Hub.1@merseyside.police.uk

Southport: B.Community.Hub.2@merseyside.police.uk

Yours sincerely

Graeme Robson
Superintendent
Local Policing Commander
Sefton

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